

# Love Of Children, Vitamin D Work Magic For Lancaster's Dairy Princess

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Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Sometimes it's important to know a friend of a friend.

A little pep talk wouldn't hurt, either.

Andrea "Anne" Fisher, 17, daughter of Amos and Jane Fisher, Gap, was crowned Lancaster County Dairy Princess last Saturday at the Farm and Home Center.

Andrea knew little about county dairy promotion. She didn't serve as a dairy maid or ambassador. Though her parents co-own a dairy equipment company, she received most of her inspiration to become princess from Brenda Hoover, Jill Hoover's sister. Andrea and Jill went to the same school — Conestoga Christian School. Andrea is a senior there.

Jill, Gap, was the reigning Lancaster County Dairy Princess until last Saturday evening, when more than 100 friends and family members watched Andrea accept the tiara.

Competition for the crown was tough. There were two candidates. Andrea was selected princess and Heather Brubaker, 20, daughter of Lowell and Deb Brubaker, Manheim, was selected alternate.

Andrea, who enjoys working with children, is also employed part-time as a young child-care provider. Her presentation, entitled "A Visit From the Dairy Fairy," focused on a "relative" of the Tooth Fairy in children's story-book fame.

The Dairy Fairy lets little children know about the importance of calcium in milk for a well-rounded diet.

"When a person's body doesn't have any calcium," said the Dairy Fairy, "then it steals the calcium from the body's bones and leaves them fragile and brittle later in life."

The Dairy Fairy, speaking to a young girl named Cinderella, tells the girl how milk provides the magical Vitamin D. The Dairy Fairy was on a mission, too, to ensure she put the "magic of Vitamin D" into Cinderella's cow, Bess's, milk.

The natural dairy products, noted the Dairy Fairy, are essential to put that shine on "skin, hair, nails, and teeth" for the prince.

"And, oh, if you see the Tooth Fairy," said the Dairy Fairy, "tell her (that) her cousin said hello."

For the impromptu question, "If you could return to any point in history, where would you go and why would you go there?" Andrea answered: back to the Civil Rights movement, because there is a "lot to be done."

After the Civil War, blacks still were treated harshly, said Andrea.

Andrea admires the people "who stood up and made a stand," and that she, too, "would like to make a difference. We treat others like we want to be treated. I think that's important."



The new Lancaster County Dairy Princess, Andrea Fisher, with family.



Andrea Fisher, left, provides a dairy princess "hug" for alternate Heather Brubaker.

A new segment of the contest introduced this year was the question put to the candidates: why run for Lancaster County Dairy Princess? Andrea said, "Every second in Lancaster County, seven gallons of milk are produced."

Andrea recognizes the importance of educating children about how critical the dairy industry is, since fewer and fewer children live on farms. She said she would enjoy being a representative of the "hard work of farmers in the dairy industry."

Andrea's parents, Amos and Jane, are part owners of Fisher and Thompson Equipment, and have always been supporters of the Lancaster County Dairy Promotion Committee. Andrea enjoys reading, sports, drama, and chaperoning and participating in out-

door activities with children. She is a member of a choral group. Andrea has participated in gymnastics and enjoys swimming. She is also employed part-time at a market stand.

Andrea is the oldest of the Fisher children. Her siblings include Samantha, 15; Brooke, 12; and Shawn, 9.

Heather Brubaker, 20, daughter of Lowell and Deb Brubaker, Manheim, was a dairy ambassador in 1997 and dairy darling in 1990. The family owns Hilltop Heritage Holsteins, a 220-acre dairy in Manheim. They milk 186 of the 340 Holsteins they own.

Heather, employed full-time as a licensed cosmetologist at Regis Hair Salon, Lancaster, is also a Mary Kay beauty consultant. She has been a member and officer of

the Northwest Dairy Club and a National and Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Association member.

Heather exhibits some of her 14 registered Holsteins at local and state shows, an event she and her two sisters, Crystal, 16; Candice, 10; and brother Blake, 14, enjoy with their parents. Heather also helps out with farm chores.

A graduate of Manheim Central High School, Heather was a member of choir and was a varsity cheerleader. She also served as FFA member and has participated in dairy foods judging, dairy cattle judging, and on various committees.

Heather's presentation was "Dorothy In Dairyland."

In "Wizard of Oz" fashion, Dorothy stops by on her way down the Yellow Brick Road to see Mr. Farmer, also known as "Brains."

"I could certainly see you drink your milk," she tells Mr. Farmer. "Just look at those muscles."

Brawn is essential to farm success.

For Mrs. Farmer or "Heart," Dorothy pointed out that milk "also gives you energy."

"And what do you need energy for? To run from Mr. Farmer when he chases after you," said Dorothy.

But Dorothy is looking for the way home. So she asks her dog, Toto, "How do we get home, Toto?" She taps her ruby-attired heels and says, "There's no place like home on the farm."

Heather was asked the same impromptu question: if you could go back in time to live at any part in history, to what time would you go, where, and why?

She spoke about being an eighth generation farmer and her willingness to return to the farm's beginnings.

"It would be neat to see how much our farm has grown since that time — what it would be like to farm back then when things were a lot harder than they are now," said Heather.

In the prepared speech, Heather spoke about her life on the farm. For the number one dairy county in the state, "wouldn't it be a privilege and honor to represent (the farmers)?" Heather spoke about the importance of family values and hard work of the dairy farmer, something she "holds very dear in my heart," said Heather.

Her dad and grandpa work long hours, she said, dedicated to the industry. And Heather said there are more housing developments replacing farms. "If we lose this, it would be like losing a part of ourselves," she said.

Judges for the coronation included Mike Isiminger, wife of Junia Isiminger, Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Promotion coordinator and a technician for ABS Global, who, with Junia, care for replacement heifers on their 40-acre farm; Stephanie Sattazahn, second grade teacher at Blue Mountain Christian School; and David Sonnen, biology and environmental science teacher, Cocalico High School.

Jill Hoover, outgoing princess, spoke about her reign and saluted the producers. "Here's to nature's most perfect food and the farmers who produce it for us," she said.

Some dairy ambassadors are returning to assist the princess. Returning for a third year as ambassadors are Laura Hess, daughter of Joe and Linda Hess, Mount Joy, and Kari Martin, daughter of Leonard and Joyce Martin, Ephrata.

Jenna Martin, Kari's sister, is serving a second year as ambassador. Stephanie Donough, daughter of Timothy and Brenda Donough, Bainbridge, and Cheryl Hershey, daughter of Dale and Martha Hershey, Ronks, are also returning to serve a second year.

Young women serving their first year as dairy ambassador include Apryl Becker, daughter of Merle and Janet Becker, Kinzers; Crystal Brubaker, daughter of Deb and Lowell Brubaker, Manheim; Karen Shaub, daughter of Kirk and Shirley Shaub, Leola; Alysha Royer,



Andrea Fisher as the Dairy Fairy.



Heather Brubaker as the Wizard of Oz's "Dorothy" with Mr. Farmer.



Heidi Miller, state alternate dairy princess, played piano at the Lancaster dairy princess pageant.

daughter of Lynn and Sara Royer, Lancaster; and Mary Zeng, daughter of Thomas and Victoria Zeng, Paradise.

Six dairy misses are Angela Becker, daughter of Merle and Janet Becker, Kinzers; Tiffany Donough, Bainbridge, daughter of Timothy and Brenda Donough; Leslie Hoover, daughter of Carole and Gordon Hoover, Gap; Stephanie Kauffman, Denver, daughter of Harold and Anne Kauffman; and Katelyn Uersery and Adrienne Ranck, daughters of Eldon Ranck and Tammy Uersery, Lancaster.

Rounding out the dairy promotion team are the dairy darlings, including Amelia Jean Barley, daughter of Rob and Shellie Barley, Conestoga; Hanna Breneman, Washington Boro, daughter of Jim and Renee Breneman; Candice Brubaker, daughter of Lowell and Deb Brubaker, Manheim; Toni Kauffman and Terri Kauffman, daughters of Harold and Anne Kauffman, Denver; Jennifer Royer, daughter of Lynne and Sara Royer, Lancaster; and Olivia Uersery, daughter of Eldon Ranck and Tammy Uersery, Lancaster.



2001-2002 dairy ambassadors. From left, Stephanie Donough, Laura Hess, Jenna Martin, Karen Shaub, Alysha Royer, Cheryl Hershey, Crystal Brubaker, Kari Martin, Apryl Becker, and Mary Zeng.