# Promoting Dairy Everyday Is Goal For Somerset County Dairy Princess



Jennifer Stahl, 2001 Somerset County Dairy Princess is outdoors at her home.

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**GAY BROWNLEE** Somerset Co. Correspondent SOMERSET (Somerset Co.) -Jennifer Stahl, Allegheny Road,

Somerset, was crowned Somerset County Dairy Princess by Lacey Coleman, Berlin, the retiring dairy princess.

The coronation conducted at the Heritage Baptist Church included a dinner crowd of 120

Stahl addressed the guests with a speech that dealt with the dairy industry and the essentials of good health with milk as a dietary staple. Equally important are cheese varieties, ice cream and yogurt.

The 18-year-old princess, whose parents are Richard and Ellen Stahl, is learning how busy are the days of a promoter. That is how her life must be for a dairy princess to make a difference.

In doing her job well, the princess, too, needs several daily servings of milk to maintain strength and keep up with demands on her time. In lieu of milk she may prefer a frozen treat to celebrate July as National Ice Cream Month.

Stahl has set some lofty goals because the general public is a big audience that she is committed to reach. She declares her primary concern is that of being visible each day throughout her

"I want to do something everyday. I feel it is my job to be out there meeting the public with information about the dairy industry," she said.

"The nice thing is that I am out of school," Stahl said of the advantage of having a flexible

schedule that allows her to participate in many promotions. Her job at the turnpike Subway had been full time, but now is maintained at part time.

College will come later, she said.

Stahl invested in a new piece of equipment with the cash incentive the Allied Milk Producers Cooperative, Inc., presented the night of her coronation. She purchased a portable TV/VCR to play videos on the road. The rationale for that deci-

sion was machines owned by

a hindrance. Why risk wasting time fiddling with an unfamiliar appliance suddenly gone haywire, in the middle of a promotion? This way an electrical outlet will be all she needs.

On her parents' dairy farm working with cows, over the years Stahl absorbed cow knowledge, but she made a surprising discovery after ninth grade when she joined the Somerset FFA Chapter. There was a lot more to the cow business than she had re-

The family farm near Lavansville uses a system of intensified rotational grazing for a mixed herd of 70 Holsteins and Jerseys covering some 44 paddocks. The Jerseys add butterfat.

"I wanted to promote the dairy industry," she reported. 'I thought it was important to me since mom and dad have been milking cows for 30 years."

Thus, as invitations from Daycare centers, nursing homes, Bible Schools and parades come in, her schedule is growing more and more like a buzzing beehive.

At this point she anticipates visiting every classroom in Somerset county and being present at farm and non-farm meetings she is asked to attend.

At banquets the milk toast has become a popular promotion choice. Stahl looks forward to introducing it herself. She may salute the dairy cow, the farmer, or whatever ....

When the clinking of glasses subsides everyone will proceed to sip their dairy drink.

For years the big Holstein cow mascot that follows a dairy princess around has been a winning combination with kids. In targeting youngsters with the "Drink Milk" message the mascot continues to be a useful and fun tool. A volunteer from the Stahl family has offered to wear the black and white suit. They want to help out wherever possible.

Stahl gives chocolate milk to kids because she enjoys it herself. Fruit dip, on the other hand is her choice for promotions at nursing homes.

Dairy shows often last several hours, but the dairy princess has a duty to present awards as judging of divisions continues all day until a grand champion is se-

Among the largest promotional events of the year is Ag-Progress Days in August. Stahl and other county dairy princesses will serve throngs of visitors known to attend the annual

Stahl's successful FFA career in grades 9-12, has earned an impressive list of awards.

As a senior she won the State Record Keeper Award as well as Western Region Star in production agriculture. She also received a state silver medal for dairy judging and was in state competition with her speech on intensified rotational grazing.

She served as Somerset FFA Chapter president and received the Keystone Degree and was selected by the Somerset County Beef Producers to receive their award at the county FFA awards banquet. She attended the National FFA Convention as a jun-

A member of the National Honor Society, three years in succession Stahl won the FFA Agronomy Contest. She was a guest of the Somerset Lions and Somerset Kiwanis Clubs and named Outstanding Student in Agriculture by the Pomona Grange.

At the 2000 Somerset County Junior Dairy Show her Jersey animal was named the reserve grand champion.

She joined 4-H to pave the way for her brother Matthew, now 15, she said. He wanted to show animals and be involved in projects but felt more comfortable with an older sister there,

Stahl also has two sisters who are married with children.

Following is a favorite recipe from the dairy princess.

FRUIT DIP

8 ounces cream cheese, softened

7 ounces marshmallow cream

2 tablespoons milk

1 teaspoon vanilla 1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg

In a medium bowl combine softened cream cheese, marshmallow cream, milk, vanilla and nutmeg. Beat until smooth. Place in serving bowl and serve with assorted fresh fruit that has been thoroughly washed.

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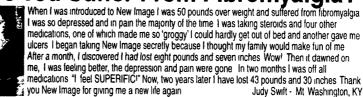
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