

State Fair Queen To Tout 114 Ag 'Showplaces'

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Food And Family
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HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — West Lampeter Fair may be a small fair, but it has big clout with Jacqueline Pratt.

The 16-year-old touted her fair last weekend before 850 persons attending the 16th annual Pennsylvania Fair Queen Pageant, Hershey.

Her verbal tour of the West Lampeter Fair detailing the exhibits and the importance of agriculture capitulated her into the finalist's circle. After answering an impromptu question about the positive outcomes of the Sept. 11th events, Jacqueline was crowned the state fair queen—which means that she now has 114 fairs to represent throughout the state.

The fairs are considered "Showplaces of Agriculture" in Pennsylvania. The new queen said that she is eager to promote agriculture since it is Pennsylvania's number one industry.

Jacqueline also was named Miss Congeniality among the 47 contestants, who competed for the state title after gaining eligibility by winning at the local level.

The other finalists and the fairs they represented included Stephanie Blackstone, Bedford; Sarah McLaughlin, Erie; Morgan Bacher, Clearfield; and Kylie Pajak, Washington, who was selected runnerup.

The state title also earns a \$1,500 scholarship for Jacqueline and a basketful of Mary Kay cosmetics.

The runnerup receives a \$300

scholarship. All five finalists received \$50 and a cosmetics.

The daughter of Dr. Robert and Yvonne Pratt, Willow Street, Jacqueline attends Lampeter-Strasburg High School. She is captain of varsity and competition cheerleading squads and earned all-star and all-American cheerleader status.

At school, Jacqueline is on the varsity track and field teams, and is a member of the National Honor Society, student council, school newspaper, the school television station, chorus, and environment club. The busy teenager also finds time to act as peer mediator and as a leader of Fellowship of Christian students.

Jacqueline has received several awards for her writing and has represented her high school at the Millersville University Science Bowl for two consecutive years. She is an active member of Lampeter United Methodist Church, and volunteers at the Lancaster Region Hospital birth center.

For fun, Jacqueline enjoys riding horses, reading, writing, cooking, gardening, and being with her family.

Judges for the event were Louis Sallie, Camp Hill; Pat Miller, Harrisburg; and Cassie Abbott, Altoona.

Julie Sollenberger, the 2001 state fair queen representing Kimberton Fair, shared her experiences about visiting 17 fairs and accompanying a group to Mexico with the Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture is Pennsylvania's number one industry, a fact that Jacqueline said she is eager to promote.



The new court congratulates Jacqueline Pratt, seated. From left stands Sarah McLaughlin, Erie County Fair; Kylie Pajak, Washington County Ag Fair and PA Fair Queen runner up; Julie Sollenberger, 2001 PA Fair Queen (from Kimberton Community Fair), Stephanie Blackstone, Bedford County Fair; Morgan Bacher, Clearfield County Fair.



The queen coronation was conducted in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs and the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association annual convention, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center January 16-19.

Photo at right shows — Surprise! The new queen is Jacqueline Pratt, center, from West Lampeter Fair. On her left is Morgan Elizabeth Bacher, Clearfield County Fair, and Sarah McLaughlin, right, representing Wattsburg Erie County Fair. Photos by Dianne Therry.



At the 16th annual Pennsylvania Fair Queen Pageant, 47 contestants representing their local fairs vied for the state title.