

York Dairy Princess Pageant Planned

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York Co. Correspondent
THOMASVILLE (York Co.) — Visiting elementary schools has been a key focus during the past several months for members of the York County dairy princess and promotion team.

"I talked with 600 students, from kindergarten through sixth grade, during just one day of a promotion visit to the Southern York County School District," said York County dairy princess Michelle Walker, as she recently briefed contestants for the 2002 pageant on the opportunities to boost dairy awareness that come with the crown and banner.

Walker hosted the annual planning tea for York's Dairy Princess and Promotion program at her family's Walk-Le Farm. The annual pre-pageant gathering provides returning participants an opportunity to share their promotion experiences while explaining the program to newcomers. Special events, which Michelle and the promotion team participated in during the past year, included Christmas at the River, Brown's Orchard Market's strawberry festival, Ice Cream Day at the York County courthouse, monthly dairy bingo games at the Weiglestown Senior Center, and several area parades.

Eleven candidates will take part in the annual pageant, at 7:30 p.m. on June 8 at the York

County 4-H Center. Candidates will be competing for the title of dairy princess and the opportunity to serve during the next 12 months as part of the extended dairy promotion team.

Dairy princess candidate Raechel Kilgore, 17, is the daughter of Doug and Pam Kilgore, Airville. She is a senior at Red Lion Area High School, member of the Honor Society and an FFA member with dairy judging and judging projects. Raechel is a member of the Milk and Money 4-H, was the national 4-H dairy judging champion in 2001, and now assists in coaching the junior judging team.

A member of the dairy promotion team for several years, Raechel served two years as a dairy miss and one year as a dairy ambassador. She plans to pursue an agriculture communications degree in college. As a dairy princess candidate, Raechel wants to take advantage of a variety of opportunities to boost public perception of the role and benefits of dairy foods in the diet. The Kilgore family milks 50 cows at their McCall's Ferry Farm.



York Dairy Princess Michelle Walker stands behind candidates for the York County dairy princess and promotion team. From left, front, Heather Baumgardner, Raechel Kilgore, Amanda Hoover; second row left, Carlyn Crowl and Amy Baumgardner, right; and back row, Katie Baumgardner, Amber Thoman, Jelea Anstine, and Bekah Baumgardner.

Heather Baumgardner and Lisa Jones are dairy ambassador candidates and Amanda Hoover is a candidate for dairy maid. Heather Baumgardner, 18, is the daughter of Dan and Lori Baumgardner, Dillsburg. Heather is a home-schooled graduate, working with the family's dairy herd, and studied dairy manage-

ment courses at the University of Illinois, via the Internet. She will serve as a summer missionary with the Child Evangelism Fellowship, assisting full time with summer Bible school programs in the region. As a candidate for her second year as a dairy ambassador, Heather is interested in working with her favorite age group for teaching, first through third grade students. She is considering pursuing a degree in elementary education to develop her enjoyment of teaching children into a career.

Lisa Jones, 15, is the daughter of Dennis and Patricia Greek Jones, Airville. Lisa is a sophomore student at Red Lion Area High School and active in the school's FFA chapter. She is a member of the Milk and Money 4-H dairy club and the state and national Brown Swiss Association.

Lisa will be competing in the dairy pageant for the first time, but is especially interested in promoting the positive health aspects of milk and dairy product consumption.

Amanda Hoover, 14, is the daughter of Paul and Rose Hoover, East Prospect. She is an eighth-grade student at Eastern York School and serves as track team manager. One of her 4-H projects is raising six head of market swine, along with

the strawberries she raises as a member of the Berries and Bees Club.

As a previous dairy miss and dairy maid, Amanda has especially enjoyed taking part in milk promotion at area parades. She is a candidate for dairy maid and enjoys talking with people about milk at promotion events.

Candidates for dairy miss are Jelea Anstine, Amy Baumgardner, Carlyn Crowl, and Amber Thoman.

Jelea Anstine, 10, is the daughter of Lynn Hibbard and Charles Anstine, York. Jelea, a fifth-grade student at the Sinking Springs Elementary School, enjoys the trampoline and tetherball, and is a member of the Penn Laurel Girl Scouts. As a third-year dairy miss candidate, Jelea has enjoyed promoting the dairy industry at a variety of events, include riding parade floats and helping at the Ice Cream Day celebration at the York County Courthouse.

Amy Baumgardner, 11, is the daughter of Dan and Lori Baumgardner, Dillsburg. Amy, a home-schooled fifth-grader, has been part of the promotion team for four years as both a dairy miss and li'l miss. She enjoys the parades and senior centers, but especially likes doing promotions with younger children. A member of the Central Dairy Club, Amy's favorite part of exhibiting her two dairy heifers is the showmanship competition.

Carlyn Crowl, 10, is the daughter of Gary and Melanie Crowl, Delta. A fifth grader at Clearview Elementary School, Carlyn is a member of the Milk and Money dairy club and exhibits three Milking Shorthorns. Participating for her second year as a dairy miss, Carlyn assisted with the strawberry festival at Brown's Orchard Markets and took a calf to her fourth-grade as part of school dairy promotion activities.

Amber Thoman, 8, is the daughter of Gary and Gail Thoman, Dallastown. Amber is in the second grade at Loganville-Springfield Elementary School and plays soccer in the JLS league. A two-year 4-H member of the Southwest dairy club, Amber exhibits her calf at area shows. She has been a dairy miss and li'l miss for four years, and enjoys riding parade floats.

Sisters Katie and Rebekah Baumgardner are candidates for the li'l dairy miss title. They are the daughters of Dan and Lori Baumgardner, Dillsburg.

Katie, 7, is a home-schooled second grade student, who enjoys art, including painting and playing the piano. She is a rookie member of the Central dairy club and will exhibit one calf this year. As last year's li'l dairy miss, Katie's favorite promotion was riding floats in parades.

Rebekah Baumgardner, 4, is a pre-school participant in the family's home schooling studies. While not an official past member of the promotion team, "Bekah" has traveled to various events with her older sisters and likes drinking milk and eating dairy products.

Organizations interested in having the York County dairy princess or promotion team be part of their program may contact Heather Crowl (717) 862-3955, or Lori Baumgardner (717) 432-3169.

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