

Sarah Dell Reigns As Blair County Dairy Princess

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Blair Co. Correspondent

TIPTON (Blair Co.) — Sarah Dell was crowned Blair County Dairy Princess and Lydia Dively, alternate, on Saturday, May 18 at Delgrosso's Amusement Park outdoor stage.

Temperatures hovered only in the mid to lower 40's throughout the evening's festivities, making the 2002-2003 Blair County Dairy Princess pageant one of the coldest on record.

Despite the miserable outdoor conditions, the contestants presented their speeches with professionalism and enthusiasm to the crowd of about 150.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the pageant was TV-10 morning and mid-day news anchor and former PA Alternate Dairy Princess Amy Mearkle-Sylvester.

Outgoing Blair County Dairy Princess Emily Kirsch presided over the evening's events along with her Alternate Princesses for the year, Jessica Gorman and Karyn Stone.

Sarah's presentation, "Agroterrorism: The Next 9-11?" gripped the listener as she explained how an attack on American agriculture could be as life-changing as the events of September 11, 2001.

Sarah spoke with confidence and ease, stepping away from the podium to deliver her message, one of both concern and a positive call to action.

During the impromptu question, Sarah was asked the following question: "Many people are critical of youth today. What is one way you feel you can have a positive impact on our American society?"

Sarah responded that she felt that presenting a wholesome image, whether she was promoting milk and dairy products or just out in the public, would be her way of having a positive impact on society.

Sarah is the 16-year-old daughter of Leon and Elaine Dell, Martinsburg. The Dells are dairy farmers in the Clover Creek area of Blair County.

After receiving her new tiara and sash, Sarah was presented with a check for \$200 from Allied Milk Producers by secretary Jan Itle. This money is given by Allied to help the princess and her family offset travel and wardrobe expenses for the year.

Sarah was also given a chance to address the audience. She



Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Rebecca Mowrer, left, and previous Blair County Dairy Princess Emily Kirsch, right, congratulate new royalty in Blair County. Second from left is Alternate Lydia Dively with Blair County Dairy Princess Sarah Dell.

thanked everyone for coming out to the pageant and pledged to do her best to promote the dairy industry in Blair County during her year as princess.

Lydia's speech, "We are one" was a look at how other English-speaking countries promote their dairy industries. She shared with the audience information about dairy promotion in Canada, the UK, New Zealand and Australia.

Using pictures of their logos and examples of their tag lines and promotional campaigns, Lydia illustrated that dairy farmers of the world share a common interest in promoting the sale of their products. For Lydia's impromptu question she was asked how the events of Sept. 11th personally affected her or changed her life. Lydia shared that she has a friend in New York City and a cousin that works at the Pentagon, so she was very concerned for their safety initially. She also told the audience that she is still in disbelief that something like that could happen in America.

Lydia is the 17-year-old daughter of Andrew and Lenette Dively of Claysburg. The Dively's have sold their dairy farm due to health problems, but continue their connection to the dairy industry through Andrew's employment at Mill Hill Agway in Williamsburg.

The judges for the evening were Raylene Russell, agriculture

teacher at Southern Huntingdon High School and former Sullivan County Dairy Princess; Ronnie Reese, dairy farmer from Centre County, and Mike Mowrer, dairy farmer from Huntingdon County and father of the reigning Pennsylvania Dairy Princess, Rebecca Mowrer. Each contestant had an interview with the three judges and ate dinner with the judges before the pageant.

Toward the conclusion of the pageant 2001-2002 Blair County Dairy Princess Emily Kirsch shared her closing remarks with the crowd. She stated that her experience as dairy princess had been wonderful and challenging.

She cited the friendships made with other county dairy princesses and her experiences at the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess pageant as some of the highlights. Emily was chosen as a state finalist and awarded honorable mention for both her speech and skit at the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant last September.

Chairwoman Twila Bigelow presented Emily with a scholarship for completing the second level of incentive during her reign. Her alternates were also given scholarship money and the 2001-2002 Dairy

Maids and Misses were presented with "Got milk" duffle bags as a thank you for their work in promoting the dairy industry throughout the year.

Reigning Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Rebecca Mowrer was also in attendance. Rebecca spoke briefly the audience, congratulating the outgoing dairy princesses for a successful year of dairy promotion and encouraging the new royalty to make the most of every opportunity. Other special guests included Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes and State Representative Jerry Stern.

During the pageant other junior promoters were introduced. The youngest group are the future dairy princesses and their escorts the future farmers. These are children between the ages of 4 and 8. Their main event for the year is the pageant.

The future princesses include Lindsay Knab, 8-year-old daughter of David and Genee Knab of Hollidaysburg; Caroline Smith is the 7-year-old daughter of Doug and Veronica Smith of Martinsburg, Melinda Dively is the 8-year-old daughter of Andrew and Lenette Dively of Claysburg. Carrie Russell is the 7-year-old daughter of Rusty and Kristin Russell of Martinsburg, Tiffany Pheasant is the 6-year-old daughter of Wayne and Tammy Pheasant of Williamsburg, Alexis Pheasant is the 7-year-old daughter of Dale and Jodi Pheasant of Williamsburg, and Candis Baker is the 5-year-old daughter of James and Anita Baker of Martinsburg.

Escorts were Adam Russell, son of Rusty and Kristin Russell,

Martinsburg; Colton Kensinger, Denny and Jody Kensinger; Joshua Russell, son of Rusty and Kristin Russell, Martinsburg; Jake Bigelow, son of Randy and Twila Bigelow, Williamsburg; Andrew Brumbaugh, son of Martin and Diane Brumbaugh of Curryville; Brandon Negly, son of Mark and Christine Negly, Martinsburg; and Ben Russell, son of Rusty and Kristin Russell, Martinsburg.

Dairy Misses are between the ages of 9-11 and help with promotions primarily during the summer months. Dairy Misses for the year will be Jeri Baker, 11-year-old daughter of James and Anita Baker of Martinsburg; Kristy Bigelow, 11-year-old daughter of Randy and Twila Bigelow of Williamsburg, Tara Brumbaugh, 10-year-old daughter of Martin and Diane Brumbaugh of Curryville; and Desteny Ramsey, 9-year-old daughter of Brenda and Ellery Amick of East Freedom.

Dairy Maids, between the ages of 12-15, serving this year are Emily Baker, 14-year-old daughter of James and Anita Baker of Martinsburg; Katy Bigelow, 12-year-old daughter of Randy and Twila Bigelow of Williamsburg; Jenna Smith, 13-year-old daughter of Max and Jeannie Smith of Martinsburg; Shasta Miller, 12 year-old daughter of Steve Clapper and Amy Miller of Williamsburg; Shanda Pheasant, 12-year-old daughter of Dale and Jodi Pheasant of Williamsburg; Tara Sollenberger, 12-year-old daughter of Earlyn and Lynette Sollenberger of Curryville, and Kelly Over, daughter of Glen and Cathy Over, Williamsburg.

Childcare Providers Workshop

COLLEGEVILLE (Montgomery Co.) — Childcare...for Mixed Ages is the title of the workshop being presented by Penn State Cooperative Extension. All childcare providers and interested parents can participate in the workshop at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 6 at the Montgomery County 4-H Center on Rt. 113 in Collegeville.

Nancy Stevens, Penn State Cooperative Extension family living agent in Montgomery County, says "childcare providers will get ideas on how to make caring for children of different ages work. They will discuss some of the problems that arise when caring for children in a mixed age group."

Childcare providers can receive two Department of Public Welfare training cred-

its for participating in the workshop.

For more information on the program, support materials and other services from "Better Kid Care Program," call the Mont-

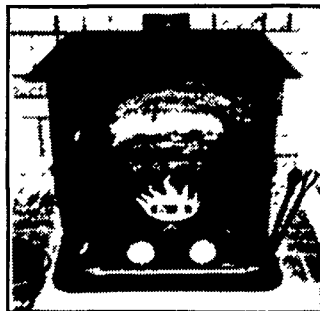
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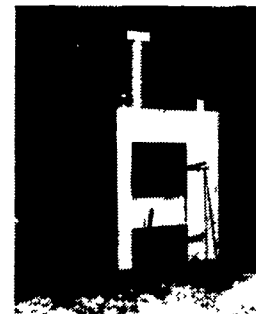
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