

Raechel Kilgore Crowned York Dairy Princess

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York Co. Correspondent

BAIR (York Co.) — From drill sergeants to singing puppets, York County's annual dairy princess pageant showcased a wealth of talented and enthusiastic young women primed to tell the world about their favorite beverage, milk.

Heading up the promotion team's efforts will be Raechel Kilgore, crowned the 2002-2003 county princess as the finale of the June 8 pageant at the 4-H Center.

Raechel, 17, is the daughter of Pam and Doug Kilgore, Airville. The Kilgore family milks 50 head of Holstein cows and raises forage and grain crops on their McCalls Ferry Farm.

An accomplished public speaker, Raechel presented a speech outlining the history and nutritive benefits of milk and dairy products. She reappeared a bit later in the program dressed from head to toe in military camo garb as Colonel Calcium, presenting a snappy, game-plan strategy to the troops she was uniting to do battle against bad nutrition information. Assisting Colonel Calcium were Privates Potassium, Riboflavin, and Calcium.

Raechel is a senior at Red Lion Area High School with plans to pursue a communications major in college. She has been a 4-H and FFA dairy exhibitor and judging team member for several years and earned the national 4-H dairy judging title last year at the World Dairy Expo. Previously, Raechel served with as a member of the dairy promotion

group for two years as a dairy miss, followed by a year as a dairy ambassador.

Dairy Ambassador Heather Baumgardner also returns to the promotion team with several years as a dairy miss. Heather, 18, is the daughter of Dan and Lori Baumgardner, Dillsburg. She is a home-school graduate, employed on the family dairy farm, and is spending her summer in youth missionary-outreach work with Bible school programs in the region.

Speaking on the "fruits of farming," Heather cited how the biblical fruits of the spirit apply to dairying. She cited the love of the family working together, the joy of newborn calves, peacefulness on the farm "most of the time," farmers' need for endless patience, and related attributes of kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control "when everything is going wrong."

Heather also presented an original puppet show, featuring a hip rock singer belting out the song "Milk's Good For Your Bones."

Dairy Ambassador Lisa Jones, 15, is the daughter of Dennis Jones and Patty Greek, Delta. A 4-H dairy exhibitor and owner of Brown Swiss and Holstein animals, Lisa also exhibits draft horses.

A newcomer to the dairy promotion team, Lisa quizzed the audience during her speech presentation on how they choose snack foods. She noted lots of alternatives to mostly nutrition-empty junk foods and suggested



York County's 2002 dairy princess Raechel Kilgore, center, is surrounded by members of her court and promotion team. Photo by Joyce Buyp, York Co. Correspondent.

selecting dairy alternatives, including yogurt, cheese, and ice cream.

With blanket and baby doll, Lisa portrayed a mother putting her little girl to bed with a bedtime chat about milk and good health.

Amanda Hoover, 14, will help promote the industry as a dairy maid. She is the daughter of Paul and Rose Hoover, whose family milks dairy goats at their East Prospect farm. A freshman at Eastern Middle School, Amanda has assisted with the promotion team for several years, along with tending to her 4-H projects in swine and berries.

Her promotion presentation advised listeners to "get hooked on milk for life," since milk and dairy products help prevent numerous health problems.

Four dairy misses will assist with promotion efforts as well. They include Jeele Anstine, Amy Baumgardner, Katie Baumgardner, and Carlyn Crowl. Each recited an original poem for their audience presentation.

Jeele Anstine, 10, is the daughter of Lynn Hibbard and Charles Anstine, York. She is a fifth-grade student at Sinking Springs Elementary School and has previously been a dairy miss and lil' miss. Carlyn Crowl, 10, is the daughter of Gary and Melanie Crowl, Delta. A

fifth-grade student at Clearview Elementary School, Carlyn is a 4-H dairy club member and serving her second year with the dairy promotion program.

Amber Thoman, 8, is the daughter of Gail and Gary Thoman, Dallastown. She is a Loganville Elementary School second grader, a 4-H dairy club member, and has helped with promotion as a dairy maid and lil' miss.

Sisters Amy and Katie Baumgardner are the daughters of Dan and Lori Baumgardner, Dillsburg. Amy, 11, is a home-schooled fifth-grader. In the four years she has helped with milk promotion, Amy has been a dairy maid and lil' miss. Katie, 7, is a home-schooled second grader. She has previously been a lil' dairy miss. Both are members of the Central 4-H Dairy Club.

Selected as a lil' dairy miss was 4-year-old Rebekah Baumgardner, daughter of Dan and Lori Baumgardner, Dillsburg. Like her sisters, "Bekah" enjoys helping with the family's dairy herd, but her favorite animals are the barn cats and kittens.

In her farewell, outgoing princess Michelle Walker told the incoming promotion team that their activities and experiences will be building blocks of experience for their lives. She expressed the hope that those she came in contact with took her advice to use dairy

products for good nutrition and a healthier life.

April Daugherty, who served as dairy ambassador, emphasized how great a privilege it is to be dairy "royalty" and the need to remain aware of the responsibilities that come with that opportunity.

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



Raechel Kilgore, York County dairy princess, is joined by her parents, Pam and Doug Kilgore.

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