

Cassie Hay Reigns As Somerset County Fair Queen

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Somerset Co. Correspondent
SOMERSET (Somerset Co.) — "I have always loved the Somerset County Fair," said a smiling Cassandra "Cassie" Hay of Berlin, who won the 2002 Fair Queen title after a competition at the Somerset County Fair in Meyersdale on Aug. 17.

Fair Queen Cassie succeeded Erika Thompson of Berlin, who was last year's reigning queen. Cassie is the daughter of Larry and Gale Hay of Berlin.

She is a 2002 graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School and plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown this fall to pursue a degree in public relations and communications. She plans to someday have a career promoting the business, industries and commerce of Somerset County.

Her court includes Kimberly Jo Yoder of Meyersdale; Jade Lynn Wareham of Rockwood; Heather Will of Somerset; and Keri Miller of Somerset.

The competitors were judged on poise, appearance, neatness, ability to communicate and knowledge of the fair industry. They each were required to write an essay on "what my fair means to me."

Cassie has a long list of accomplishments in her high school career. They include Somerset County's Outstanding Young

Woman for 2002, Who's Who Among American High School Students and Administration Student Leadership Award.

In high school, she has been active in forensics, SADD, student council, band, chorus, school musical, cheerleading, girls varsity soccer, varsity basketball, Powder Puff football, French Club, prom committee, Chemistry Club, Ski club and Varsity Dance Squad.

She was the recipient of the Pennsylvania Outstanding Young Women contest for 2002 and Most Valuable Cheerleader in 12th grade. She won first place in public speaking at State 4-H Days in her 11th grade year and also won Master Showman at the Somerset County Fair in her 11th and 12th grade years. She was also a Pennsylvania representative to the National 4-H Congress this past year.

Cassie has also been a Laurel Arts dancer since the second grand and has performed in the company's special performing dance company since seventh grade.

In her church, she has been a member of the Trinity United Church of Christ Youth Group and a youth usher.

After a week of activities, Cassie related that the fair has always had special meaning to her personally.

"I've always been involved



Somerset County Fair Queen Cassie Hay, center, of Berlin and some members of her court brought pigs to the fair this year. With Cassie are Heather Will, left, and Keri Miller, both of Somerset.

with the fair and I've loved to be here every year," she said. "I'd

run for fair queen over again in a heart beat. It has been a very good experience."

After she heard her name announced as the 2002 fair queen, she felt "a combination of feelings — excitement

and happiness."

Cassie believes what makes the Somerset County Fair special is the focus on agriculture and also the friendly people.

"The people here are so nice and fun and you can walk up to anyone and joke around. Everyone helps each other and you

can't find that at a lot of places," she said. "At the heart of this fair are agriculture and good people."

She is a member of Mountain Top 4-H Club and has taken pigs to the fair for several years. She is currently serving as vice president of her 4-H club and has served as secretary in the past.

Her two older brothers Kelby and Chris have been active in taking animals to the fair in past years as well. Cassie and her family live on a beef farm in Brothersvalley Township in Somerset County.

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