



From left are five finalists with the 2002 State Fair Queen: Ashleigh Gardner, West Lampeter Community Fair; Jacqueline (Jacquie) Pratt, 2002 PA State Fair Queen; Cassandra (Cassie) Hay, 2003 PA State Fair Queen from Somerset County Fair; Jamie Jo Orcutt, 1st runner-up from Clearfield County Fair; Carla Martin, Manheim Community Farm Show; and Christie Regula, Fayette County Fair.

51 Contestants Gather For Pennsylvania Fair Queen Pageant

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Last weekend at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center 51 contestants vied for the Pennsylvania Fair Queen title.

Cassandra (Cassie) Hay, representing the Somerset County Fair, was selected to reign over Pennsylvania's 114 fairs. Named first runner-up was Jamie Jo Orcutt, Clearfield County Fair.

Each of the 51 contestant had been a first place winner at a

local fair where more than 375 women competed.

During final competition, contestants needed to present a 3 to 5 minute speech about "Why You Should Come To My Fair."

Five finalists selected from the 51 contestants included the following: Jamie Orcutt, Clearfield County Fair; Christie Regula, Fayette County Fair; Carla Martin, Manheim Community Farm Show; Cassandra (Cassie) Hay,

Somerset County Fair; and Ashleigh Gardner, West Lampeter Fair.

Finalists on stage needed to answer an impromptu question: "If the legislators threatened to shut off funds for your fair, how would you convince them to continue funding?"

Cassie Hay's answered, "Fairs are an American tradition for the

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Working together to promote Pennsylvania fairs are First Runner-up Jamie Jo Orcutt, left, from Clearfield County Fair, and Pennsylvania Fair Queen Cassandra (Cassie) Hay, from Somerset County Fair.

Sarah Ann Leonard Reigns As Virginia Dairy Princess

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Virginia Correspondent

STAUNTON, Va. — Sarah Ann Leonard's wide smile on January 22 was every bit as magnetic and engaging as the glistening tiara placed on her tresses at the 2003 Virginia State Dairy Princess Coronation, where she won the title and Ashley Shifflett was named the alternate Virginia dairy princess.

Leonard had performed a skit entitled "Joe Moola," and later commented: "It's hard doing this in front of your friends. It's easier to embarrass yourself in front of strangers."

But, then turning serious, she added, "I enjoy living on a dairy farm and promoting (the dairy industry)."

Most shocking for the 17-year old Liberty High School junior is the statistic that 70 percent of teenage girls do not get enough calcium in their daily diets.

Perhaps her official influence as Virginia dairy princess, coupled with her position of president of the Virginia Junior Holstein Association can help to reverse the unhealthy trend.

Leonard is the fourth generation involved with the family's dairy operation and says very affectionately of the black and white cows: "I love my Holsteins." Then added that she also loves her Brown Swiss.

She believes that to make an impact for the dairy industry the dairy message must reach young people.

"I want to target the youth market to increase milk and dairy product consumption and make it a habit early in life," she said.

Leonard has gone to state and national 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, is active in 4-H dairy club, FFA, and shows dairy cows. She had been a dairy maid for two years.

Additionally she is active in high school cross-country, lacrosse teams, and at the Methodist church she attends.

Jeff and Patty Leonard of Midland are her parents. Her sisters Elizabeth and Katy are also dairy maids in Fauquier County.

Ashley Shifflett is the 15-year-old daughter of Larry and Susie Shifflett. The family



Raechel Kilgore, Pennsylvania Dairy Princess, and Dusti Vanderwende, Delaware State Dairy Princess, attended the pageant.

operates a 200-cow dairy in Fort Defiance. In addition to participating in 4-H dairy club, and FFA, Shifflett is a member of the Virginia Junior Holstein Association dairy judging (she won a national title in FFA dairy judging), dairy bowl, high school forensics, and soccer, and the Methodist church.

Dairy maids recognized and presented awards are Kallie Barnard, Sarah Barnard, Jamie Kerr, Lindsay Bariker, Amelia Co.; Cassandra Philips, Kelly Skeen, Michelle Skeen, Billie Jo Swope, Augusta Co.; Molly Brathwaite, Casey Canterbury, Beth Dickey, Leslie Hardesty, Maggie Long, Amanda Mackintosh, Megan Mackintosh, Keely McCall, Riley McCall, and Victoria Russell, Clarke County.

Culpepper County dairy maids receiving awards are Kelly Mayhugh, Stacy Mayhugh, and Esther Smith; Fauquier County, Elizabeth Leonard, Katy Leonard, Amanda Messick, and Stephanie Messick; Floyd County, Ciera Sowers; Frederick County, Kristen Windle; Rockbridge County, Jennifer Leech; Rockingham County, Sarah Joseph, Rosemary Liskey, Kathryn Liskey, Kelsey Morris, Veronica Paulson, Charlotte Will, and Jenny Will.

From Smyth County is Hillary Overbay; Tazewell County, Alana Osborne, Allison Osborne, and Ashley Rubush.

Judges for the contest were Lisa Perrin, member services of Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers and a former New York state dairy princess; Julie Linton, a W.Va. dairy princess coordinator, and a former West Virginia state princess; Patsy Props, Augusta County poultry specialist and a farm manager.

Judges' responsibility was to choose the candidate who best combined the elements of dairy industry knowledge, speaking ability, poise, personality and appearance.

Special guests were Raechel Kilgore, the Pennsylvania state dairy princess, Dusti Vanderwende, Delaware state dairy princess; and Jennifer Potts, Miss Virginia.

In a farewell speech, Joanie Will recapped appearances she had made as the 2002 princess. State princess Lindsey Potts (1999) presented a 2002 Royalty slide show.

Coordinators for the Virginia Dairy Princess Program are Marty Potts and Laura Jackson.



Newly-crowned Virginia State Dairy Princess Sarah Leonard, left, is joined by special guest at the pageant, Miss Virginia Jennifer Pitts.



Pictured together are Virginia dairy maids attending the pageant. Names do not appear in the order they are standing: Jamie Kerr, Lindsay Bariker, Cassandra Philips, Kelly Skeen, Michelle Skeen, Maggie Long, Amanda Mackintosh, Megan Mackintosh, Kelly Mayhugh, Stacy Mayhugh, Esther Smith, Elizabeth Leonard, Katy Leonard, Amanda Messick, Stephanie Messick, Rosemary Liskey, Kathryn Liskey, Kelsey Morris, Veronica Paulson, Charlotte Will, Jenny Will, Alana Osborne, Allison Osborne, and Ashley Rubush.