

# 51 Contestants Gather For Pennsylvania Fair Queen Pageant



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, Mannheim Community Farm Show; and Christie Regula, Fayette County Fair.

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present and future generations that must be preserved because of the importance to families and agriculture."

Cassie's speech was a skit in which she portrayed a detective investigating why so many people attended the Somerset County Fair instead of watching television. In the investigation she detailed all of the exhibits, and other areas of her fair, and told of the importance of agriculture. While giving all the reasons about "Why You Should Come to My Fair," she discovered what FAIR stood for. F — Family Fun; A — Activities; I — I need to get involved; R — Rewards.

When Cassie introduced herself at the Friday evening event, she said, "Whether faced with a tragedy or a miracle, or simply making memories at the fair, Somerset countians are just ordinary people doing extra-ordinary things."

Cassie is the 18-year-old daughter of Larry and Gale Hay, Berlin. She lives on High Manor Farm, which has a Seminole cow/calf operation. Her farm will achieve Century Farm status in 2004. Cassie is majoring in communications at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Cassie received the Student Leadership Award and was named the Elk's Student of the Month as an honor roll student at Berlin Brothersvalley High School. Cassie was elected president of the class of 2002, competed in district forensics, and was captain of both the varsity soccer team and cheerleading squad. She also performed with "Plus One," chorus, and the band.

Cassie was a runner-up in the 2002 Pennsylvania Outstanding Young Woman Contest. She was Pennsylvania's representative to National 4-H Congress last April. She also went to California as part of a 4-H Exchange Student Program and has showed hogs at the Somerset County Fair for six years.

Cassie's 4-H public speaking experience helped her win the title of Somerset County Fair Queen. She has been employed at Hillside Shooting Range, Laurel Mountain Tax Agency and Maggie Mae's Neighborhood Cafe.

Cassie volunteers at the county fair, Bible School, as well as Ag Progress Days and many other 4-H events. She enjoys fishing, swimming and spending time with her family and friends.

As state fair queen, Cassie receives a \$1,500 scholarship. The alternate receives a \$300 scholarship.

Anjuli Taunk from Unionville Community Fair was selected Miss Congeniality by her peers and was awarded a set of luggage.

In her farewell speech, Jacqueline Pratt, 2002 PA Fair Queen, spoke of her experiences during her year-long reign. Pratt said the experience made her a better person and changed her life's goals. Previously she planned to enter the medical field like her father. Instead she decided to attend Penn State University to study communications and agriculture. She thanked the fair board, her family, former Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes, and her coordinator Sarah Long for helping make memories for a lifetime.

The Queen Coronation was held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs and the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association Annual Convention.

More than 1,100 people attended the evening gown competition prior to Fairman's Banquet on January 25. The coronation luncheon had more than 850 in attendance. Master of Ceremonies was Jere Gish of WGAL TV.

Judges for the two-day event were Mike Firestine, Fulton Bank, Lebanon; Becky Brashear, CFE The Great Frederick Fair, Maryland; and Helen Karchner, Ursinus College, Collegeville.

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