

Pageant Showcases Dairy Promoters

(Continued from Page B2)

Audrey Hitz, the 16-year-old daughter of Steven and Cindy Hitz, works on the family dairy farm, Lebanon, where her favorite job is driving tractor.

On stage, the four contestants needed to answer the following impromptu question: In your opinion, what is the greatest challenge facing farmers today?

Jessica answered that it is the loss of farmland. Erin said it is the price of milk, which is at a 20-year low. Audrey said the farmer has to do everything required, especially with and without the most challenging. Erin sees the surplus of milk as the most challenging.

Each of the four contestants also presented a skit for the audience. Jessica examined a painting of Mona Lisa and surmised she wasn't smiling because she had too many cavities, her hair was dull from lack of protein, and her skin pale from lack of vitamin A. Jessica explained why drinking milk could have made a dramatic difference in Mona Lisa's appearance.

Merritt presented dairy facts about cows such as 290 dairy breeds exist in the world, cows don't give milk, they make it, and inquisitive cows relax when they hear music.

Audrey portrayed Detective Hitz examining school lunches for evidence that students are not consuming enough dairy products for good nutrition.

Erin jogged in for a track race to tell how important milk is for dairy calcium. According to surveys, 9 out of 10 teen-age girls are not getting enough calcium, which threatens future health. "You need milk to support your body for the rest of your life," Erin said.

Assisting with dairy promotion in Lebanon County during the next year are Dairy Maids Melissa Bashore, 15-year-old daughter of Ricki and Roberta Bashore, Lebanon, and Amber Hernley, 15-year-old daughter of Shawn and Karen Hernley, Lebanon. Ambassador is Alex Werner, 17-year-old son of Jeff and Sue Werner, and Dairy Misses are Royell Bashore, 10-year-old daughter of Robert and Sherry



Lebanon County Dairy Princess Jessica Gross is surrounded by her court: Alternates Erin Williams, Merritt Hernley, and Audrey Hitz; Dairy Maids Melissa Bashore and Amber Hernley; Ambassador Alex Werner; and Dairy Misses Royell Bashore, Danielle Bausher, and Brooke Mendoff.

Bashore; Danielle Bausher, 11-year-old daughter of Will and Norma Swanger, Lebanon; and Brooke Mendoff, 11-year-old

daughter of Steve and Melissa Mendoff, Lebanon.

Eleven people entered a dessert in the Digging Into Dairy Contest. After judges Art Schweinhart, Lebanon Fair Board, and Annabel Melito, home economist, selected the winning entries, the desserts were served with ice cream and fresh strawberries to pageant attendees.

Taking first prize in the contest was Billi Hill. Royelle Bashore placed second, and Lorraine Zook, third. See this week's featured recipe on page B6 for the first-prize entry.

Before crowning her successor, Laura Blanch reported on a "memorable year." She plans to study education at Ursinus College and spend two years in the Peace Corp.

Nina Redding, Adams County extension agent, served as the

emcee for the event and interviewed each of the candidates for dairy princess, dairy maid, ambassador, and little miss.



Lebanon County Dairy Princess Jessica Gross has been promoting the dairy industry for three years.

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