## York County Crowns Dairy Princess, Selects Court

**JOYCE BUPP** 

York Co. Correspondent

YORK (York Co.) — Heather Baumgardner will have plenty of opportunity during the next year to showcase her public speaking and puppetry skills.

The 19-year-old daughter of Lori and Daniel Baumgardner, Dillsburg, Heather was crowned the 2003 York County dairy princess during a coronation event conducted May 24 at the county 4-H Center. She has a busy schedule of promotion appearances already booked through June Dairy Month.

Heather gained promotion experience previously as a dairy ambassador in York County's program. She is a home-schooled graduate and a distance-student freshman, majoring in elementary education at Liberty University. Heather is employed on the family's Barrens View Farm, helping with their 60-head of dairy cows and other responsibilities related to herd care.

In her speech presentation, Heather recounted a question asked of her by a young man during a promotion event, challenging her that eating dairy products would clog his arteries. She reminded dairy producers that they need to be armed with data and information to respond to such questions, always focusing on milk's safe quality and nutrition denseness. Heather emphasized in her talk the high absorption rates of the body of dairy product calcium, as opposed to other calcium sources with less efficient absorption abilities.

Special emcees for the program were the state alternate dairy princesses, Rachel Ebert and Ashley Chapman. In addition to interviewing the candidates, they teamed up to ask random "fishbowi" questions of the senior candidates.

Asked who she would be for a day, if she could be anyone, Heather replied that she would be Elizabeth Elliott, a Christian speaker and missionary. Her skit presentation featured puppetry and emphasized how milk is good for the bones.

Names to the promotion team as dairy ambassadors were Amanda Hoover and Trisha

Amanda Hoover, 14, is the daughter of Paul and Rose Hoover, Windsor. She is a freshman student at Eastern York High School, active in FFA and helps

with the family's herd of dairy goats. Amanda's speech focused on milk as a "fighter," battling health problems like osteoporosis, hypertension, colon cancer, and an ally in dieting and weight loss.

Asked by the princess emcees team the random question of what color she would be if she could be any color, Amanda chose the color blue, citing it as indicative of being cool and calm. Her poster presentation featured dairy nutrition information.

Trisha Knight, 14, is the daughter of Paul and Jean Knight, Airville, and a freshman at Southeastern School District. She is active in 4-H dairy showing and judging, and dairy bowl. Trisha spoke on the development of the 4-H program as a technique used at the turn of the century to bring new ideas to the rural agriculture community.

In response to an emcee question regarding which age group of consumers she is most interested in targeting, Trisha responded that teens would be her focus, because they are the future.

Four dairy maids were named to the promotion team, Jelee Anstine, Amy Baumgardner, Carlyn Crowl, and Stevie Greek.

Jelee Anstine, 11, is the daughter of Charles Anstine and Lynn Hibbard, York. She is a sixth grader, active in school chorus and Girl Scouting. Her poster focused on everyone being boss of their own body and the need to supply it with bone-strengthening nutrients from dairy products.

Amy Baumgardner, 12, is the daughter of Daniel and Lori Baumgardner, Dillsburg. A home-schooled sixth grader, she shows dairy cattle as a member of the Central 4-H club. Her poster presentation compared butter, a natural dairy product, with margarine, a product "engineered by a chemist in a lab."

Carlyn Crowl, 12, is the daughter of Gary and Melanie Crowl, Delta. She is a sixth grade student and exhibits Milking Shorthorn cattle with the Milk-N-Money 4-H club. Carlyn presented a poster-talk on the food pyramid.

Stevie Greek, 12, is the daughter of Leonard and Bonnie Greek, Delta. She is a gifted-student in the sixth grade and a member of the Milk-N-Money 4-H club. Stevie's presentation revolved around a basket brimming full of nutritious dairy product selections.



Junior members of her dairy court gathered around York County dairy princess Heather Baumgardner after her crowning. From left, front, are Alexa Gochenaur, princess Heather, Rebekah Baumgardner; rear, Kelsey Knight, Amber Thoman, Frankie Greek, and Katie Baumgardner.

Named dairy misses on the York County promotion team are Katie Baumgardner, Frankie Greek, and Amber Thoman.

Katie Baumgardner, 8, is the daughter of Lori and Daniel Baumgardner, Dillsburg. She is a home-schooled third grader and member of the Central 4-H dairy club. Katie's presentation was an original poem about helping around the farm.

Frankie Greek, 10, is the daughter of Leonard and Bonnie Greek, Delta. She is a fifth-grader, takes dance classes and is a member of the Milk-N-Money dairy club. A song about milk was Frankie's dairy promotion presentation.

Amber Thoman, 9, is the daughter of Gail and Gary Thoman, Dallastown. Amber is in the third-grade and a Southwest 4-H dairy club member. Her original poem presentation was on the topic of having a farm.

A trio of li'l misses named to the promotion team are Rebekah Baumgardner, Alexa Gochenaur, and Kelsey Knight. Each presented an original poem to the au-

Rebekah, 5, is the daughter of Daniel and Lori Baumgardner, Dillsburg. She is a home-schooled kindergartner whose favorite cows in the family's herd are the

Alexa Gochenaur, 6, is the daughter of Robert and Karen Gochenaur, Delta. The family raises heifer calves and her poem was about feeding calves.

Kelsey Knight, 6, is the daughter of James and Lisa Knight, Airville. She is a kindergarten student and especially loves chocolate milk.

In addition to thanking all those who supported her during her reign, outgoing princess Raechel Kilgore offered a tongue-incheek list of "top ten things I've learned as dairy princess." Included were learning that she had to call out senior "Bingo" numbers clearly, wear dark clothes whenever serving milkshakes, and schedule appearances over gym classes because those are the hardest to make up.

Raechel received special accolades from her two state alternate princesses, who were on hand to both serve as emcees and offer their farewells as she stepped out of her county promotion role.

While Raechel relinquished her county title, she will continue as the Pennsylvania state dairy princess until the crowning of her successor at the annual pageant in late September.

Heather Baumgardner, as the newly-crowned princess, offered her best effort to the industry as she strives to fulfill her responsibilities. For information on the dairy princess program or to schedule the appearance of the dairy princess at an event, contact booking chairman Lori Baumgardner, phone (717) 432-3169.

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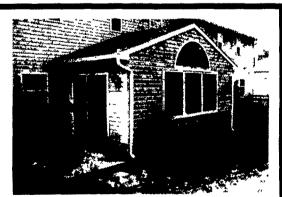


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