

Kids Korner

SUN Area Ag Festivities Fill Two Days



Denae Johnson is the SUN Area Dairy Princess.

SELINGSGROVE (Snyder Co.) — Two days of Ag Dairy Day festivities for the SUN Area, which includes Snyder, Union, Northumberland, and Montour counties, ended with the crowning of Denae Johnson of Union County as the SUN Area Dairy Princess on Saturday June 21.

The Ag/Dairy Days festivities were conducted at the Susquehanna Valley Mall in Selingsgrove.

While the transfer of the SUN Area dairy princess crown was a major part of Ag/Dairy Days, several other festivities took place during the event.

The Ag/Dairy Days event began in full swing on Friday evening with the construction of a giant ice cream sundae. Future Farmers of America members from local chapters, committee members and other volunteers helped to build the huge sundae which was made up of 99 gallons of vanilla ice cream, 4 gallons of strawberries, 7 gallons of chocolate fudge, and 20 pounds of peanuts. Sponsors for the sundae were, Turkey Hill Ice Cream, Ag Choice Farm Credit, Pardoes Perky Peanuts, W. A. Dehart, Inc. and Rockwell Center Assisted Living.

More than 1,000 12-ounce dishes of ice cream were served during a two-hour period while mall patrons stood in lines more than 10 feet long waiting for their share of this great dairy product.

During Friday evening and Saturday, 105 pounds of cheese samples were available for the mall patrons. Sponsors for the cheese tasting samples were M&T Bank, Mifflinburg Bank and Trust, SUN Bank and West Milton State Bank.

Pictures with "Daisy", the SUN Area Dairy Princess Committee Mascot, were available on Friday evening and Saturday for a \$2 donation to the SUN Area Dairy Princess Committee. Saturday's events included Milk Punch samples and a Pedal Power Tractor Pull.

The Milk Punch samples were distributed by the Snyder County Holstein Association. Weis Markets donated the ice cream and sherbert for 1,700 five-ounce cups served during the six hours the samples were available.

Youth ages 3 through 9 took part in a Pedal Power Tractor Pull that was held in Boscov's Garden Center. Sponsors for this event were Boscov's, DFA-Dairy-lea, Penn State Cooperative Extension-Snyder County, Valley Ag and Turf, Hooper, Inc., Mifflinburg Farm Supply, Inc. and Donald Erdley Farm supply.

Participants of the pull received trophies for first place, rosettes for second and third places, and all participants received String Cheese. In addition, Swineford National Bank held its annual Scooper bowl, with proceeds to be donated to the local Snyder County 4-H Foundation.

Speakers for the dairy princess



First place Pedal Pull winners show off their trophies.

pageant included Michelle Shearer, SUN Area dairy princess committee chairwoman, Steve Kline, Beaver Community Fair Association; and Dawn Marie, Big Country Radio. Jane Hawn, Boscov's public relations department, served as emcee at the pageant, which also featured a fashion show with dairy princess royalty modeling Boscov's apparel.

Now that the pageant is over, newly-crowned Dairy Princess Johnson, along with the 12 dairy maids and misses will undertake the charge of promoting the dairy industry throughout Snyder, Union, Northumberland and Montour Counties.

Judges for the Dairy Princess Pageant included Jessica Bailor, 1998 Juniata County Dairy Princess, and Beth Ann Cooley, 1988 Lycoming County Dairy Princess.

Outgoing SUN Area Dairy Princess Melissa Wolfe, with help from her court and committee members, traveled about 8,000 miles to promote the dairy industry during the past year. Within the Snyder, Union, Northumberland, and Montour counties she completed 112 school promotions, 184 newspaper articles, 238 radio/TV appearances, 49 store/mall promotions, 141 non-farm meetings, 15 farm meetings, 28 special events and 5 state events, for a total of 772 promotions.



"Sunde" Members of the committee and volunteers scoop sundaes to serve to the mall patrons.



From left, SUN Area Dairy Misses Jonelle Wetzell, Katy Heimbach, Emily Weller, Marissa Ewing, and Ashley Wetzell.



SUN Area Dairy Maids, from left, include Lauren Cochran, Dawn Heimbach, Cheryl Pflieger, Amanda Hauck, Joanna Thomas, and Crissa Johnson.

Secret Messages

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Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick

Dear Twig: Are strawberries berries?

Yep, strawberries are red, sweet and juicy. But, nope, technically, strawberries aren't berries at all. They're "aggregate fruits" they form from a flower that has many ovaries.

To explain the ovary is the part of a flower that opens into a fruit. While some flowers have one ovary, other flowers, like the strawberry flower, have many.

When a strawberry flower is pollinated (by bees and their friends), the ovaries swell and form what's called the fleshy receptacle — the red, juicy part you eat. (The tiny "seeds" on the outside are actually called achenes. Inside each achene is a seed. The green leafy crown at the top is the calyx.)

Since an aggregate fruit forms from more than one ovary, it's called a complex fruit. Raspberries (aggregate fruit), blackberries (ditto) and mulberries (multiple fruit) are also complex fruits.

True berries, on the other hand, are a type of simple fruit: they form from a flower that has just one ovary. The inside of a berry is soft and mushy and usually has more than one seed. Grapes, tomatoes and cranberries are berries. So are bananas!

Strawberries peak in June where I live. Tonight I'll eat some aggregate fruit pie!

Strawberry.

Twig

From The Ohio State University (originally, OARDC and OSU Extension)