



Labor Day weekend. I'm sure that it means different things to different people. For some it really means a vacation from work while for others it is just another day. Farmers are in the group to whom it is just another work day. Maybe a picnic could make it a special day for them.

I decided to look over some diaries from the 1950s when our four oldest children were young. It was a time when we allowed folks to drive in our meadow, fish, and swim in the Conestoga River. They paid us 25 cents for a carload of people. One year our six- and eight-year-olds dug in my garden and got fishing worms to sell for 15 cents a dozen to fishermen.

Each morning started with washing the milk buckets and equipment. Then I went to the

garden to pick tomatoes and cucumbers. The beans were grown in the corn field and climbed up the stalks. One year in the 1950s I had 80 pint of pickles canned by Labor Day. Fifty years ago we were raising tobacco as a cash crop and usually my husband was working to put the tobacco in the barn on Labor Day. I did the washing on Monday morning.

One day I wrote in my diary that the pigs were in the garden again and that the lawn mower broke. Our oldest children liked to go fishing and swimming. We canned tomatoes and also sold some to the neighbors. Now my garden only produces enough for us to can and eat. No more do I hunt people to sell my produce to. We surely worked hard on Labor Day 50 years ago.



The Blair County team of dairy promoters are, from left back, Shanda Pheasant, dairy maid; Julie Dell, dairy maid; Lydia Dively, Blair County alternate princess; seated, 2003 Blair County Princess, Tracy Bigelow; 2002 Blair County princess, Sarah Dell; Kelly Over, dairy maid; Katy Bigelow, dairy maid; and Kristy Bigelow, dairy maid. Middle row, Melinda Dively, dairy miss; Andrew Brumbaugh, Austin McMonagle (both future farmers); Caroline Smity, future princess; Lindsay Knab, dairy miss. Front row, Jenna Metzler, Caulen Metzler, Lauren Kensinger, Alexis Pheasant, Adam Russell, Levi Russell, Carrie Russell, Colton Kensinger, Josh Russell, future princesses and future farmers.

Blair County Conducts Dairy Princess Pageant

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
TIPTON (Blair Co.) — Tracy Bigelow, 17-year-old daughter of Richard and Cindy Bigelow, Williamsburg, was named recently Blair County Dairy Princess.

Tracy helps on the family's 180-acre farm known as Dippy Acres, which is home to about 90 Holsteins and Jerseys.

A senior at Huntingdon Christian Academy, Tracy is employed part time on the family farm and at Mill Hill Agway. She is the Williamsburg Farm Show queen and is a past dairymaid.

Runner-up is Lydia Dively, 18-year-old daughter of Andrew and Lennett Dively, Claysburg.

Lydia will be a freshman at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and plans to major in elementary and special education.

She is involved in her church youth group and teaches during children's church.

The dairy princess pageant was held at Del Grosso's Family Amusement Park in Tipton and included a parade of future dairy princesses and little farmers.

Participants included Andrew Brumbaugh, Carolyn Smith, Austin McMonagle, Tiffany Pheasant, Adam Russell, Carrie Russell, Joshua Russell, Alexis Pheasant, Levi Russell, Robyn Pheasant, Colton Kensinger, Lauren Kensinger, Caulen Metzler, and Jenna Grace Metzler.

The 2003 Blair County Dairy Misses are Tara Brumbaugh, 11, daughter of Marty and Diane Brumbaugh of Curryville; Melinda Dively, 9, daughter of Andrew and Lennett Dively of Claysburg; and Lindsay Knab, 9, daughter of David and Genee Knab, Hollidaysburg.

The 2002 Blair County Dairy Maids are Katie Bigelow, 13, daughter of Randy and Twila

Bigelow, Williamsburg; Kristy Bigelow, 12, daughter of Randy and Twila Bigelow of Williamsburg; Julie Dell, 15, daughter of Leon and Elaine Dell of Martinsburg; Kelly Over, 15, daughter of Glen and Cathy Over of Williamsburg; and Shanda Pheasant, 13, daughter of Dale and Jodi Pheasant of Williamsburg.

Sarah Dell, outgoing dairy princess, reported she had attended 70 school promotions; wrote 28 newspaper articles; appeared on 18 radio/tv shows; attended 97 store or mall events; participated in 22 non-farm events; 11 farm meetings; and 25 special events.

The Blair County team of promoters traveled more than 6,700 miles and distributed more than 5,500 recipes and almost 24,000 promotional items during the past year.

Kick Off Fall Harvest At Springton Manor Farm's Family Day

GLENMOORE (Chester Co.) — Spend a special day with your children, friends and family at Family Day, Saturday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Springton Manor Farm. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 28. The event features children's activities; craft vendors; farming demonstrations; agricultural exhibits; music; Celtic dance; food; games; animals; pony rides; soldiers; classic and antique cars, trucks, tractors, and steam engines; Bouncy Castles; and more!

Family Day highlights the fall harvest with exhibits such as horse-shoeing, milling roof shingles, sawmill log cutting, wheat weaving, bee-keeping and ice cream making. Bring your own clothes to "stuff a scarecrow;" straw provided.

Take a hayride to explore the 300-acre property, including an

animal visiting area, open pastures, a Butterfly House, Victorian gardens, Manor House, woodlands, pond, interpretive walking trails and natural history exhibits.

Admission and parking at Family Day is free. Family Day is sponsored by the Chester County Board of Commissioners through the Parks and Recreation Department.

Springton Manor Farm, 860 Springton Road, Glenmoore, is located 5 miles west of Downingtown off Rt. 322. For more information, call (610) 942-2450 or visit www.chesco.org/ccparks.

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