

Lancaster County Dairy Princess Carla Martin Rises To Cream Of The Crop

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CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — A funny thing happened at Pennsylvania's Dairy Princess Pageant last Saturday evening.

On stage, starry-eyed dairy princesses representing 30 different counties sparkled in evening gown finery, but when Carla Martin presented her award-winning speech, the aura of glitz burst.

Her words transported the audience to Carla's Lancaster County dairy farm, and reminded the crowd that this contestant's deepest passion was for the farm and not the pursuit of a tiara with fake diamonds.

Carla said, "I pushed open the door and stared into the dim light of the early morning as I pulled a warm flannel shirt over my shoulders. I headed outside to begin the farm chores.

"The cool fresh air of autumn felt wonderful to my face and quickly drove the sleepy feeling away.

"I listened to the silence and watched the breath of the cows as they contentedly chewed their cud. I looked up to see the stars patiently awaiting their dismissal by the sun. And, then I thanked God as I had so many times before that I was able to grow up in such a wonderful place."

Carla continued her talk on "A Legacy That Lasts," which she also referred to as a legacy of truth about the benefits of a dairy-rich diet.



Seven finalists, from left, Ashley Bird, Centre; Charann Lee Foster, Huntingdon; Pam Werley, Berks; Carla Martin, Lancaster; Emily Grove, Franklin; Holly Liggett, Lawrence; and Megan DeHart, Butler.

Before the evening ended, Carla was crowned Pennsylvania Dairy Princess. Pam Werley representing Berks County became first alternate, and Emily Grove of Franklin County, second alternate.

The coronation climaxed a rigorous two days of judging at the Radisson Hotel and Convention Center, Camp Hill, where each princess had been individually interviewed, delivered a prepared speech and skit presentation, handed in a scrapbook reviewing



Jessica Landis wins the Tina M. Schultz Memorial Award for her outstanding promotions in Somerset County.

dairy promotional efforts, and been scrutinized for on-stage and off-stage presence.

From the preliminary judging, the winners of speech, presentations, and scrapbook competitions were named. The top two speeches and presentations were performed for the audience.

In addition to Carla presenting her speech, Carissa Ebersole, Bedford, spoke on Food for a Lifetime, and of her concerns that children are not consuming enough of calcium in their diets.

Pam Werley, Berks County, portrayed Captain Calcium coming to the rescue to solve the calcium crisis. Emily Sue Grove, Franklin County, portrayed a milk bottle — the total package. She introducing her siblings "Brother Cheese" and "Sister Yogurt" who sport tattoos — the Real Seal and the 3-A-Day logo.

Judges and board members of the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services Inc. (PDPPS) expressed several times that the entire group of 30 princesses was extraordinary. From the group, seven finalists were chosen. These included, in no particular order, the following: Megan DeHart, Butler; Charann Foster, Huntingdon; Pam Werley, Berks; Holly Liggett, Lawrence; Carla Martin, Lancaster; Ashley Bird, Centre; and Emily Grove, Franklin.



Carla Martin reigns as Pennsylvania Dairy Princess.



Raechel Kilgore makes her final appearance as state dairy princess on the arm of her dad Douglas Kilgore.

On stage, each of the seven finalists answered the impromptu question: "What is your greatest accomplishment to this point in your life and why?"

Megan, 17-year-old daughter of William and Bonnie DeHart of Evans City, said that her dream has always been to become a dairy princess, and since achieving the position she loves it.

Charann, 18-year-old daughter of John Jr. and Alice Foster of Petersburg, said that being able to come to the state pageant to

(Turn to Page B12)



For compiling outstanding scrapbooks chronicling their dairy promotions, from left, Megan DeHart, Butler, and Cheryl Lynn Curry, Clearfield, receive awards.



Presentation awards go to Emily Sue Grove of Franklin County, right, and Pamela Werley, left, Berks. Emily also was voted Miss Congeniality by other contestants. Speech awards go to Carissa Ebersole, second from left, Bedford, and Carla Martin, Lancaster.



In a final farewell, the 2002-2003 royalty team sing original lyrics "The Dairy Chicks." From left are Ashley Chapman, Raechel Kilgore, and Rachel Ebert.



Royalty from surrounding states join the newly-crowned Pennsylvania Dairy Princess. From left are Katie Mason, Maryland; Brynn Kirby, New Jersey; Carla Martin, Pennsylvania; Andrea Smith, New York; and Lacey Dixon, Delaware.