



News for Immediate Release
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Schuylkill County Girl Crowned as 2013 Pennsylvania Fair Queen

Rhonda Carl of Ashland was named the 2013 Pennsylvania Fair Queen during the State Competition on January 26. She was crowned during the concluding event of the annual joint convention of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF) and Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association (PSSA) at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

Special guests in attendance included PA Department of Agriculture Secretary George Greig. "The PA Fair Queen Program is considered a great leadership program for the young women in Pennsylvania," said Greig.

Carl, daughter of Robert and Carla Mae Carl, is a 17-year-old senior at Tri-Valley High School. She is involved in National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters, cheerleading, band, majorette captain and feature twirler and other activities. She represented Tri-Valley High School at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference in Central PA, and then went on to represent the region at The World Leadership Conference in Chicago. She enjoys volunteering in her community and church, and likes to jet ski and fish.

Carl, representing the Schuylkill County Fair, is the first person in the history of the fair to win all of their royalty contest titles from Little Miss 2006, to Princess 2009 and finally Fair Queen 2012. She now becomes the first Schuylkill County Fair Queen contestant to not only place in the state competition's top five, but to have the honor of winning the state title. She was crowned on Saturday by outgoing PA Fair Queen Drew An Brubaker from Lancaster County.

Rhonda Carl will now travel throughout the Commonwealth making appearances with legislators, the agri-business sector, and the general public as she shares about the importance of Pennsylvania fairs, agriculture and tourism. State-sanctioned events will include Cornucopia, Ag Progress Days, Farm-City Day, the 2014 Pennsylvania Farm Show, and the 2014 PSACF/PSSA Convention, along with numerous Fair visits. She will receive a \$2,000 scholarship at the conclusion of her 2013 reign sponsored by PSACF.

Each of the 55 contestants in this year's state competition had to prepare a brief speech that convinced others to attend her county or community fair, an essay about the fair's significance in her local community, and a stage introduction during the PSACF annual banquet. They were also interviewed by a panel of three judges.



The contestants are evaluated on their written and public speaking skills, knowledge of the fair and agricultural industries, and poise and appearance.

Five finalists were chosen during the Coronation and then had to give an impromptu answer on how they would encourage consumers to purchase Pennsylvania agricultural products. Carl's answer emphasized educating the growing population on the role Pennsylvania products plays in their daily food life.

Sarah Wilson, 19, of Portersville, Butler County, was first runner-up, representing the Big Butler Fair. She is the daughter of David and Elizabeth Wilson and is currently studying nursing and psychology at the University of Akron. She attended Laurel Senior High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council and the National Science Society. She also earned her Keystone State FFA Degree, the DEKALB Agricultural Award, and Presidential Award for Academic Excellence. At college, she is a Resident Assistant and works for the Office of Admissions as a student assistant. Wilson spends time doing data entry at her fair and also volunteers for the Moraine Preservation Fund, St. Jude's Hospital and Relay for Life. She enjoys reading, movies and being outdoors.

Rounding out the top five finalists were: **Brennan Register**, Clinton County Fair, **Christa Ziefel**, Greene County Fair; and **Racheal Sue Grosvenor**, Harford Fair. Register was also named "Miss Congeniality," an award voted on by the other contestants.

This year's panel of judges include Dr. Jim Diamond (Bucks County), former Dean of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Delaware Valley College; Jean Lonie (Northampton County), Senior Manager of Marketing Communications for the Pfizer Animal Health beef segment; and Wanda Waugh (York County), co-owner of Glen Ridge Farm. The master of ceremonies was Kevin Bieber, of the Oley Valley Community Fair.

2013 marks the 101st year for the PSACF. Carl will serve as its 27th state queen, serving as an ambassador for the fair association and the PA Department of Agriculture. The PSACF has a membership of over 100 fairs, associations and societies that focus on the Commonwealth's number one industries: agriculture and tourism. These fairs create a distinctive combination of education and entertainment for the public, while also enriching the life of their communities by encouraging tourism to the local area. Over five and one-half million fairgoers attend fairs each year from April to October to experience a showcase of the best food, livestock, horticulture, and home arts Pennsylvania has to offer. PA fairs are proud to be a celebration of the Commonwealth's rich agricultural heritage and the traditions of community volunteerism. To learn more about PA fairs, go to www.pafairs.org.



The PA Fair Queen Program is the largest commodity program in the Commonwealth. Many former PA State Fair Queens credit the program with their successful careers in education, broadcasting, business, marketing, medicine and nursing, law, and farmer advocacy. The PA Fair Queen Program opens many doors to travel, building relationships, and enhancing skills and abilities. It has had the honor of seeing a state queen become FFA State President, and another serve as the PA Department of Agriculture's Fair Fund Administrator. Other PA Fair Queens have had opportunities to participate in international agricultural exchange programs in Puerto Rico and South America, and to intern at the White House.

Being part of the Fair Queen Program is a way for Pennsylvania's young women to invest in their future. For more information about the Program, contact our Program's Chairman John Berne at 814-887-5396 or email pafairqueen@gmail.com.

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