

Rachel Miller captures Miss Maryland Agriculture title

*First from Prince George's
County in 50 years*

by Susan Summers
Spotlight Editor

Prince George's County Farm Bureau members jumped with excitement when their representative, Rachel Miller, was named Miss Maryland Agriculture. It had been 50 years since the county had a state winner.

Twenty-two county Farm Bureaus were represented during the annual contest that kicked off the Maryland State Fair in Timonium. Taking the top agriculture spokesperson title, 19-year-old Miss Miller lives on her family's 270-acre produce farm and nursery in Clinton. She is the daughter of Rick and Janet Miller.

Four contestants were named to a court to assist the state winner throughout the fair and during the year ahead. Judges selected Jeanne Herbert of Charles County as first runner up; Noelle Barnes of St. Mary's County as second runner up; Elyse Hladky of Harford County as third runner up; and Ruthie Miller of Baltimore County as fourth runner up.

Living on one of the oldest working farms close to Washington, D.C., Miss Miller works with many aspects of the direct farm market. Fruits and vegetables are grown on the farm, along with soybeans, wheat and straw. They sell the produce at a market on the farm, as well as to Giant Food Warehouse and at several local farmers' markets. The family also manages four greenhouses where they grow flowers and fruit and vegetable plants. The newest addition to the farm is a bakery.

When Miss Miller isn't working on the farm, she can be found working in the law offices of President of the Senate of Maryland Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr., caring for her younger cousins and doing daily house chores. She is also a volunteer for the county's Christmas in April program.

| The new Miss Maryland Agriculture graduated from St. Mary's Ryken High School in 2008 and is currently a sophomore at the College of Southern Maryland, majoring in criminal justice. She plans to transfer to the University of Maryland in College Park and hopes to become a lawyer.





The new Miss Maryland Agriculture Rachel Miller, center, is surrounded by her court after the contest. From left, are, Elyse Hladky of Harford County, third runner-up; Jeanne Herbert of Charles County, first runner-up; Miss Miller; Noelle Barnes of St. Mary's County, second runner-up; and Ruthie Miller of Baltimore County, fourth runner-up.



Maryland State Fair Chairman Grove Miller, left, and President and General Manager H. Max Mosner, right, welcome Rachel Miller as the new spokesperson for Maryland agriculture.



Rick and Janet Miller of Clinton are the proud parents of the newly named Miss Maryland Agriculture, Rachel Miller.



The 2008 Miss Maryland Agriculture Lisa Daffin of Talbot County passed on her title to Prince George's County's Rachel Miller during opening night festivities of the Maryland State Fair.



Miss AGRICULTURE Contestants converge EDC

County representatives for the Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest spent an exciting day in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, August 26. Slated as a special “pre-contest” event, the day included a visit with Maryland Congressman Frank Kratovil, a VIP tour of the Capitol and a trip to the White House. The young ladies enjoyed a rooftop luncheon at the American Farm Bureau Federation office, an excursion to the Washington Monument and completed the day with an etiquette dinner.

On Thursday and Friday, August 27 and 28, the 22 county winners will compete for the prestigious Miss Maryland Agriculture title. The on-stage contest will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 28, at the Maryland State Fair, and the public is welcome!

