The Meridian Dairy Days Princess Pageant would like to thank our sponsors:

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2026
77th Meridian Dairy Days Princess Pageant

Meridian DAIRY DAYS® Since 1929

PETERSON CHEVROLET

DARIGOLD

2026 Dairy Board Members

Hans Bruijn-President (1987)
Gary Johnson-Vice-President (1998)
Gerry Mattison-Treasurer/Secretary (1985)
Sharlie Workman (2012)
Russ Johnson (2016)
Mike Murgoitio (2017)
Ray Plum (2019)
Steve Wilder (2022)
Rod Bird (2022)
Mike Sharpe (2025)
John Overton (2025)
Mike Gould (2025)
Jordyn Bettencourt (2026)

Sponsorship Development: Ember Hines

Pancake Feed Coordinator: Jennifer Johnson

Meridian Speedway: Adam Nelson

Memories of Past Dairy Princess Pageants

2017

2015

2018

2019

Photo by Lesli J. Luneckas

Sharlie Stevens, far right, enjoys the moment after being named the 1996 Dairy Princess as part of Meridian's Dairy Days celebration. The banquet and pageant was last Wednesday at the Methodist Family Life Center.

Dairy Days of the Past

Next Thursday

Dairy Show starts May 31, board names Dairy Queen

Next Thursday, May 31, will be opening day for the 1962 Meridian Dairy Show. A three-day event, the show will be held all day Thursday, Friday, and Saturday —ending with special jalopy races Saturday night.

Dairy Show officials today announced that Miss Louise Stevens —daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Stevens, who live on Highway 30 west of Meridian — has been named Dairy Show Queen for 1962.

Ralph Madden, show board president, said, "Miss Stevens was selected on the basis of her personality, attractiveness, and her actual work as a real life 'Dairy Queen'."

High qualifications

Queen Louise, 17 years old, has just completed her junior year at Meridian high school. As one of the top 10 students of her class, she was one of the ushers at the graduation ceremonies for seniors last Monday.

She has been active at MHS— and will serve next year as president of the Future Homemakers of America, of which she has been the 1962 treasurer, and in which she has won a state FHA degree. She is also treasurer of the Ada County 4-H Youth Council, a junior leader of 4-H, and has won many 4-H awards.

This year she also served as make-up editor for the award winning high school newspaper, Warwhoop. She was junior concession manager for the Service Club, and won that club's highest award for continuing service. She is also a member of Future Teachers of America.

Active in dairying

As a real-life "Dairy Queen," she owns eight purebred Hol- steins, three of which she is cur-

(Creason photo)

Queen Louise Stevens
1962 Meridian Dairy Show

Boys and girls

2026 Order of Events

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Candidate Speeches
- Impromptu Questions
- Release Judges for Deliberation
- 2025 Meridian Jr. and Sr. Princess Retiring Address
- Ice Cream Intermission
- Coronation

Judges

Leah Clark
Agriculture Alumni

Jody Nelson
Founder of Jody Leadz

Kalkidan Meyer
Idaho News 6 Meridian Neighborhood Reporter

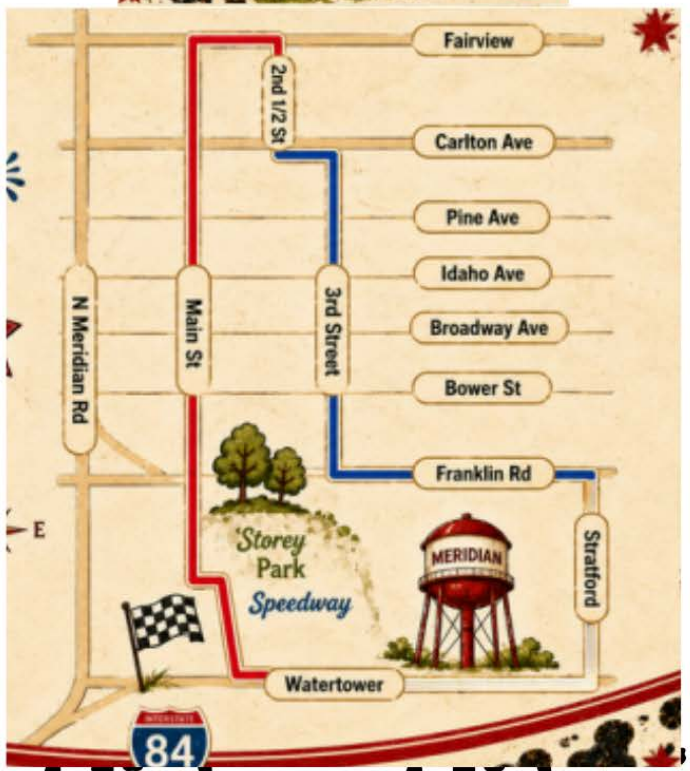
Program Coordinators

Jennifer Merrill

Christy Hawkins

Lisa Osler

Sharlie Workman



Meridian Dairy Days

Princess Pageant

Sr. Princess Candidates

Miss Bailey Fowler

Miss Bailey Fowler is the daughter of Jacob and Breanna Fowler. She is a 17-year-old Junior at Middleton High School. Bailey is heavily involved in FFA and serves as the Chapter President and District Reporter. She competes in floral, nursery, and landscape. Her favorite passion outside of agriculture is photography and lacrosse. She also loves sheep and shows them at the fair. Bailey would like to be the Meridian Dairy Princess because she loves being involved in her community and sharing her passion for dairy. She also enjoys this experience with all of her heart and has loved how it has pushed her to grow and build on her leadership, communication, and public speaking.

Miss Malinda Head

Miss Malinda Head is the daughter of Michelle and Robert Head. She is a 16-year-old sophomore at Meridian High School. Malinda is an active member of the Meridian FFA where she participates in Livestock Judging. Malinda also enjoys playing the saxophone, flute, and piccolo in her high school percussion and symphonic band, jazz band, and marching band. She also loves volunteering her time for programs like ZooTeen and National Honor Society. Malinda also enjoys watching documentaries and hanging out with her friends. Malinda would like to be the Dairy Princess because she loves being involved in her community and educating people of all ages. She also really enjoys being around new people and learning new things.

Miss Sydney Kemp

Miss Sydney Kemp is the daughter of Susie and T.J Kemp. She is a 14-year-old freshman at Meridian High School. Sydney enjoys baking, playing the piano, and spending time with friends and family. She also enjoys working with her steer and goat for 4-H. She likes going to 4-H and FFA events with her friends. Sydney was also chosen to be on the Know Your Government Steering Committee. Sydney would like to be the Dairy Princess because she thinks that it would be a great experience for her to meet new people, getting leadership and public speaking skills, and most importantly, educate the community about why the dairy industry is so important for their health.

Dairy Days of the Past

PAGE 4A VALLEY NEWS May 29, 1985

MERIDIAN DAIRY DAYS

Spotlight on business

High tech reaches cows at SteveAcres Farms

by Rick Mattoon

Charlie Stevens said a lot of people have stopped by SteveAcres Holstein Inc. at Franklin and Ten Mile Road to see how dairymen are milking their cows nowadays.

For those who might have expected to see a milking bucket and a stool, the operation on today's dairy farm would come across as a "future shock" experience.

They'd see cows hooked up to the vacuum-like tubes called milkers that milk them until they're done and the milk passed through tubes into refrigerated bulk tanks.

It's still hard work. It's just that new technology dairymen are using today helps get the most out of each cow in less time.

Stevens has 106 head of milking cows and 250 total cows. The most number of cows he milks is 125 at a time.

He works with his dad, Bill Stevens, who started the business in 1953 with 15 head of cows. Charlie joined the business in 1968 after getting out of the navy.

"We've always had the cows," Charlie Stevens said. The first one he remembers ran off gasoline motor.

Now he and his dad can milk the cows eight at a time because of the equipment they have and the cows.

Charlie said that saves a lot of time from when the older facility used could only handle three at a time.

The cows come in to the building just south of Bill Stevens' house and just off where the cows are.

Charlie cleans the cows' teats, dries them off, hooks them on to the milker and then waits. It takes about three and a half minutes for a cow to be milked.

After the cow is milked, he puts a teat dip, made of mostly iodine, to the cow to close up the teat.

Bill Stevens said the biggest change has come in the breeding of the cows. Cows today can give more milk than ever before because of better breeding methods.

The other reason cows give more milk is because the dairymen spend more time managing them.

The Stevens just put in a computerized feeding system that will control how much feed a cow receives.

A computer base just off the milking station area controls the feeding system.

Stevens demonstrated how the computer has information about the cow's history, its breeding status, how much milk it's produced, how many days it's produced milk and how much feed it's eaten.

The Stevens' sell their milk to the Dairymen's Creamery Association in Caldwell. The milk is Grade A and most of it goes to Associated Dairies.

Charlie Stevens (front) and his father Bill Stevens prepare cows for milking.

The Meridian Dairy Board is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to support the development of youth through 4-H, FFA, and the Dairy Princess Pageant. The Dairy Board also presents the Annual Dairy Days Parade and Dairy Show, which has become one of the largest annual public events in Meridian.

The objective of the Dairy Princess Pageant is to encourage a desire for community involvement in today's youth, and to teach tomorrow's women leaders necessary skills such as poise, self-worth, and public speaking.

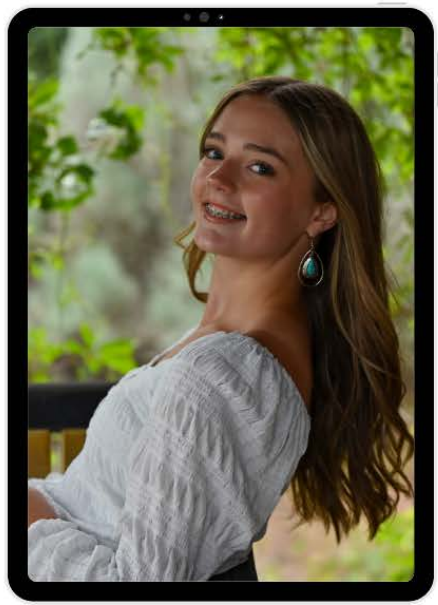
Participants in this pageant will take part in all the activities during the Dairy Days event. The reigning Princesses will attend various functions throughout the year, including, the Western Idaho Fair and the Canyon County Fair. They will also be expected to educate the public about the health benefits of dairy products through community outreach programs in our local schools and public events. We strive to make this a fun and education experience for all the girls involved.

2026 Meridian Dairy Days
June 25th-27th

Miss Sophie Workman

Miss Sophie Workman is the daughter of Harry and Sharlie Workman. She is a 15-year-old freshman at Meridian High School. Sophie is an active member of the Meridian FFA Chapter where she was elected as the co-historian. She is also active in the Crafty Critters 4-H Club where she is the club President. Sophie owns a herd of 5 Beef Master beef cattle and 2 market pigs. She is also a member of the Treasure Valley Dairy Heifer Replacement Program where she owns 2 dairy heifers, Faith and Patty. Sophie also loves swing dancing and hanging out with her besties. Sophie would like to be the Dairy Princess because she believes that the dairy industry is one of the most important industries in the world and she wants to educate the community about this important industry.

Miss Bethany Osler



Miss Bethany Osler is the daughter of Lisa Osler and Kacey Osler. She is a 15-year-old freshman at Meridian High School. Bethany is an active member in 4-H and FFA. Through 4-H, she participates in the Know Your Government and Market goat projects. Through FFA she participates in the Conduct of Chapter Meetings competition. Bethany is also active in her high school Speech and Debate team and golfs competitively. Bethany also loves to hang out with friends and spend time with family. Bethany would like to be the Dairy Princess because she wants to make an impact on Idaho's dairy industry and on Idaho's community. Dairy has many benefits and nutrients to help people in their everyday lives.

Miss Quincy Holley

Miss Quincy Holley is the daughter of Paige Holley. She is a 17-year-old Junior at Rocky Mountain High School. Quincy is an active member of the Meridian FFA Chapter where she was just elected as the chapter President. She also shows her Nigerian Dwarf Goat named Kitty and the fair. Quincy also enjoys playing goalie on her high school lacrosse team. Quincy also loves being in nature and fly fishing. Quincy would like to be the Dairy Princess because as someone who does not come from an agricultural background, she has had the opportunity to educate herself as well as to lead and inspire others. She wants to extend that to promoting the dairy industry and educating people on the importance of the dairy industry in Idaho.

Miss Moriah Marshall

Miss Moriah Marshall is the daughter of Charity and Shayne Marshall. She is a 17-year-old junior at Meridian High School. Moriah is an active member of the Meridian FFA Chapter and Crafty Critters 4-H Club where she shows dairy goats and pigs. Moriah also volunteers every Sunday in the children's ministry at her church where she loves being a positive influence for the younger kids. Moriah also enjoys playing basketball. Moriah would like to be the Dairy Princess so she can partner with people in the community. She enjoys meeting new people and building relationships which will allow her to advocate for the Idaho Dairy Industry.

2001-Mandy Johnson
2002-Julie Warden
2003-Sarah McConnell
2004-Sara Malaise
2005-Katie Killpack
2006-Emily Reber
2007-Jessica Smith
2008-Amanda Wilder
2009-Jeni Hagler
2010-Lauren Clark
2011-Anna Rodriguez
2012-Janine Johnson
2013-Courtney Pape
2014-Tessa Groves
2015-Kristin Nesbitt
2016-Kaitlyn Steppe
2017-Ellie Higgins
2018-Sydney Plum
2019-Nani McKague
2020-Kalyssa Safely
2021-Kata Ruff
2022-Lauren Muniz
2023-Ashton Gust
2024-Courtney Simon

2025 Sr. Princess Brooke Purdy

2025 Jr. Princess Bethany Osler

Past Meridian Dairy Queen/Princess:

1949- Marilyn Marks
1950: Dorothy Bridge
1951-Doris Jerome
1952-Carmen Steele
1953-Barbara Rambo
1954-Alice Erquiaga
1955-Rogene Alger
1956-Bette Fulcher
1957-Mary Jauregui
1958-Marilyn Frost
1959-Carol Bedard
1960-Peggy Boyack
1961-Lorraine Beus
1962-Louise Stevens
1963-Sandra Kasel
1964-Sharon Lawrence
1965-Connie Rupp
1966-Donna Stevens
1967-Helen VanBeck
1968-Ann Jackson
1969-Barbara Brown
1970-Adrianne Wheeler
1971-Kathy Eichelberger
1972-Diann Noble
1973-Linda McFadden
1974-Vicki Sheffield
1975-Patti Collins
1976-Shawna Cane
1977-Tina Murphey
1978-Chandos Young
1979-Marla Pasma
1980-Carol Davenport
1981-Tawna Davenport
1982-Paula Davis
1983-Lori Bartlett
1984-Kathy Bastian
1985-Gwen Winegar
1986-Kendra Ruwe
1987-Christine Harrold
1988-Katrina Stroebel
1989-Rolinda Johnston
1990-Rachelle Young
1991-Maxine Harrold
1992-Stephanie Samson
1993-Lucinda Eddlemon
1994-Jamie Hassakis
1995-Ruth Snow
1996-Sharlie Stevens
1997-Julie Middleton
1998-Kerene Keller
1999-Becky Korn
2000-Jennifer Hassakis

Jr. Princess Candidates

Miss Havah Marshall

Miss Havah Marshall is the daughter of Charity and Shayne Marshall. She is a 13-year-old 8th grader that is homeschooled. Havah loves to read and loves horses. She rides a horse named Chinook every Friday. Havah also participates in hobby horsing where she is able to compete and make her own hobby horse named Roger. She also loved riding her bike, participating in swim team, and writes stories. Havah would like to be the Jr. Dairy Princess because she loves participating in agriculture and loves the dairy industry.

Miss Elissa Rodgers

Miss Elissa Rodgers is the daughter of Auburn and Jessica Rodgers. She is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Meridian Middle School. Elissa has been raising and breeding goats for 11 years. She is an active member of the Crafty Critters 4-H Club where she's learned new skills and has become more involved in her community. Elissa also enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, and harvesting. She loves being outdoors and spending time with her friends and family whenever she can. Elissa would like to be the Jr. Dairy Princess Elissa wants to be the Junior Dairy days of Princess because it would be an amazing opportunity that she would love to have. She loves being involved in the community and representing the values of agriculture through Dairy Days.

Miss Aurora Hodges

Miss Aurora Hodges is the daughter of Patrick and Lucinda Hodges. She is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Victory Middle School. Aurora is a member of Crafty Critters 4-H club where she shows dairy goats at local fairs. She also shows her registered Nubians at American Dairy Goat Association shows throughout the Northwest. She is a fourth generation Idaho dairy kid where her family has been in the dairy industry milking and showing registered Holstein dairy cattle since the 1940's. She enjoys reading, doing art, and listening to music.

Aurora would like to be the Jr. Dairy Princess she wants to inform people that there is much more to dairy products than just buying them at the grocery store. It also involves dairy goats and how they contribute a key role in today's dairy industry.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Meridian Dairy Board awarded over $27,000 in academic scholarships this year!!! Your support of Meridian Dairy Days helps to make this possible.

Londyn Higgins being awarded the Charlie Stevens Memorial Scholarship Award through the Meridian FFA Chapter.

Idaho FFA members receiving the Meridian Dairy Days Scholarship Award at the State Convention in April.

Contestant scores include an individual interview with the judges prior to the speech presentation.