 PO Box 354, Silvana, Washington 98287

Voice: 360.269.8855 Email: [wsdairywomen@live.com](mailto:wsdairywomen@live.com)

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**WA State Dairy Ambassador Coronation to be held in Tacoma on June 25th**

The 2016 Washington State Dairy Ambassador Coronation will be held at a new location on Saturday June 25th in the ballroom at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center, 1500 Broadway, Tacoma,WA 98402. Seating will begin at 5:00 pm in the ballroom with the program starting promptly at 5:30 pm. For ticket information please contact Gloria Edwards at [gloria.wsdw@hotmail.com](mailto:gloria.wsdw@hotmail.com) or phone 360.273.7313. Unfortunately we are not able to sell tickets at the door. “In past years we had to limit the number of tickets sold, but this location has plenty of room. There are many museums and other activities in downtown Tacoma to enjoy before the evening event.”

The Washington State Dairy Ambassador Program provides a tremendous professional and educational opportunity for young women in Washington State. The young women chosen to serve as Washington’s Ambassadors for Milk receive a generous college scholarship, internships, and extensive communications training.

“It will soon be time to say good bye and thank you to our 2015- 2016 State Dairy Ambassador Nicole Buell (Marysville) and State Alternates Amanda Howe (Bellingham) and Lydia Johnson (Ethel). They have done a fantastic job representing the Dairy Farmers of Washington this past year and I’m sure they will continue to be lifelong advocates of our industry. We wish them well as they move on to the next chapter in their lives….” commented Tammi Schoenbachler, State Ambassador Advisor.

**This year we have six talented contestants competing for the position of the 61st Washington State Dairy Ambassador:**

* Snohomish County Contestant ~ Becca Bartelheimer
* Snohomish County Contestant ~ Allyson Carothers
* Grays Harbor County Contestant ~ Caitlin Meek
* King Pierce Counties Contestant ~ Tiana Peterson
* Whatcom County Contestant ~ Jana Plagerman
* Lewis County Contestant ~ Alicia Smaciarz

**The 2016 Washington State Dairy Ambassador contestants:**

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**Snohomish County Contestant**

**Becca Bartelheimer**

Becca Bartelheimer of Snohomish is the daughter of Ryan and Michelle Bartelheimer. She is 18 years old and will be graduating from Snohomish High School in June. Becca has been involved in 4-H, FFA, and WA State Jr. Holstein Association holding offices and winning awards. She has shown dairy cattle for the past 9 years at many area fairs and also worked on the family farm. After attaining an Agribusiness degree, Becca would like to have a career in Agricultural Finance.

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**Snohomish County Contestant**

**Allyson Carothers**

Allyson Carothers of Monroe is the daughter of Marty and Nancy Carothers. She is 18 years old and graduated from Monroe High School in June of 2015. Allyson was an active member of Monroe FFA, holding several offices and winning awards. Thanks to the generosity of local dairy farmers, she was able to show dairy cattle for 5 years, helping her to realize her passion for agriculture. Allyson is currently attending college to attain her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science.



**Grays Harbor County Contestant**

**Caitlin Meek**

Caitlin Meek of Rochester is the daughter of Cory and Kendra Meek. She is 19 years old and will be graduating from Fururist High School in June. Caitlin is a member of FFA and 4-H winning awards in both organizations. She received her first dairy calf, “Sweety”, when she was in the 8th grade and has been involved in the Dairy Industry ever since. Although Caitlin has already graduated from Centralia Beauty College, she plans on continuing her education in dairy and hopes to someday have a small dairy farm and a hair salon.



**King-Pierce Counties Contestant**

**Tiana Peterson**

Tiana Peterson of Graham is the daughter of Tom and Bianca Peterson. She is 19 years old, is homeschooled and will be graduating this June. Tiana has shown her Guernsey cow in Open Class at the Washington State Fair for the last 4 years. Her small family farm also includes a Guernsey heifer and small animals. Tiana plans on attending college to pursue a degree in Public Relations which would help her with her two greatest passions; communicating with people and the Dairy Industry

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**Whatcom County Contestant**

**Jana Plagerman**

Jana Plagerman of Lynden is the daughter of Leroy and Rhonda Plagerman. She is 20 years old and is a graduate of Whatcom Community College. Jana works on her family’s dairy farm, where she is responsible for many different jobs, including calf and cow care, milking, breeding, and field work. Jana plans to further her education by getting her degree in Dairy Science or Agribusiness to help her to be the best dairy farmer she can be and to be an advocate for the dairy industry.

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**Lewis County Contestant**

**Alicia Smaciarz**

Alicia Smaciarz of Raymond is the daughter of Terry and Lana Smaciarz. She is 18 years old and will be graduating from Willapa Valley High School this June, where she is very active in sports. Alicia is involved in FFA and 4-H, holding offices and winning awards in both. She lives and works on her family’s dairy farm. Alicia plans to further her education by a getting her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a career goal of becoming a Lab Technician at a local hospital. She would also like to remain in the dairy industry by being a 4-H leader and raising replacement heifers for her family’s dairy.

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Submitted by: Gloria Edwards, WA State Dairy Ambassador Program, Gloria.wsdw@hotmail.com

**For more information please contact:**

Marlene Noteboom, President

WA State Dairy Women

360.354.3888

pikenotene@hotmail.com

Tammi Schoenbachler, Ambassador Advisor

WA State Dairy Ambassador Program

360.269.8855

[wsdairywomen@live.com](mailto:wsdairywomen@live.com)

Debbie Branch, Chairperson

WA State Dairy Ambassador Committee

360.880.7924

debrah.branch@gmail.com