

Miss Maryland Agriculture title goes to Gabrielle Cory

Winner is from St. Mary's County

Gabrielle Cory of Leonardtown in St. Mary's County was all smiles and tears when she was named Miss Maryland Agriculture during opening night festivities at the Maryland State Fair in Timonium. Sponsored by the Maryland Farm Bureau and Maryland State Fair, the two-day competition culminated with an on-stage contest Friday, August 23rd.

Twenty-two county Farm Bureaus were represented during the annual event. Taking the top agriculture spokesperson title, 16-year-old Miss Cory lives on a 20-acre farmstead dedicated to forest conservation and also has sheep, cattle and poultry housed on her grandmother's farm. She is the daughter of Wesley and Marian Cory.

Four contestants were named to a court to assist the state winner throughout the fair and during the year ahead. Judges selected Autumn Miltenberger of Allegany County as first runner up; Laura Thomas of Howard County as second runner up; Elizabeth Galbreath of Harford County as third runner up; and Maria Miller of Prince George's County as fourth runner up.

The Cory family raises hay, corn, soybeans, grain and vegetables on their grandmother's farm, in addition to the 4-H livestock projects. Miss Cory assists in cutting and stacking wood on her own farmstead and cares for the market lambs, breeding ewes and chickens at her grandmother's farm. She is responsible for the garden and lawn mowing and helps with the family butchering and hay baling. She also cares for her younger siblings and has many household chores.

When she is not working on the farm, the new state spokesperson is active in her Chaptico Chargers 4-H Club and the Maryland 4-H Teen Council. She has won several public speaking competitions and participates in the St. Mary's County Fair as well. The outstanding student is a member of the National Honor Society and student mentoring program at Leonardtown High School and is an active member of Girl Scout Troop 4549.

The new Miss Maryland Agriculture plans to pursue a career in dental hygiene at a Maryland university.

In addition to Miss Cory and the four runners up, other county representatives participating in the Miss Maryland Agriculture contest were:

Anne Arundel ~ Kelly Poe
Baltimore ~ Bethany Gillett
Calvert ~ Sarah Manning
Caroline ~ Shelby Wright
Carroll ~ Kellie McThenia
Cecil ~ Sarah McDowell
Charles ~ Caitlin Olejnik
Dorchester ~ Bethany Brinsfield
Frederick ~ Beth Reed
Kent ~ Jennifer Quinn
Montgomery ~ Maddison Graham

Queen Anne's ~ Annie Seward
Somerset ~ Alison James
Talbot ~ Justine Spies
Washington ~ Janai Heise
Wicomico ~ Katie Harcum
Worcester ~ Megan Ludy