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Official Newsletter of the NATIONAL WATERMELON ASSOCIATION



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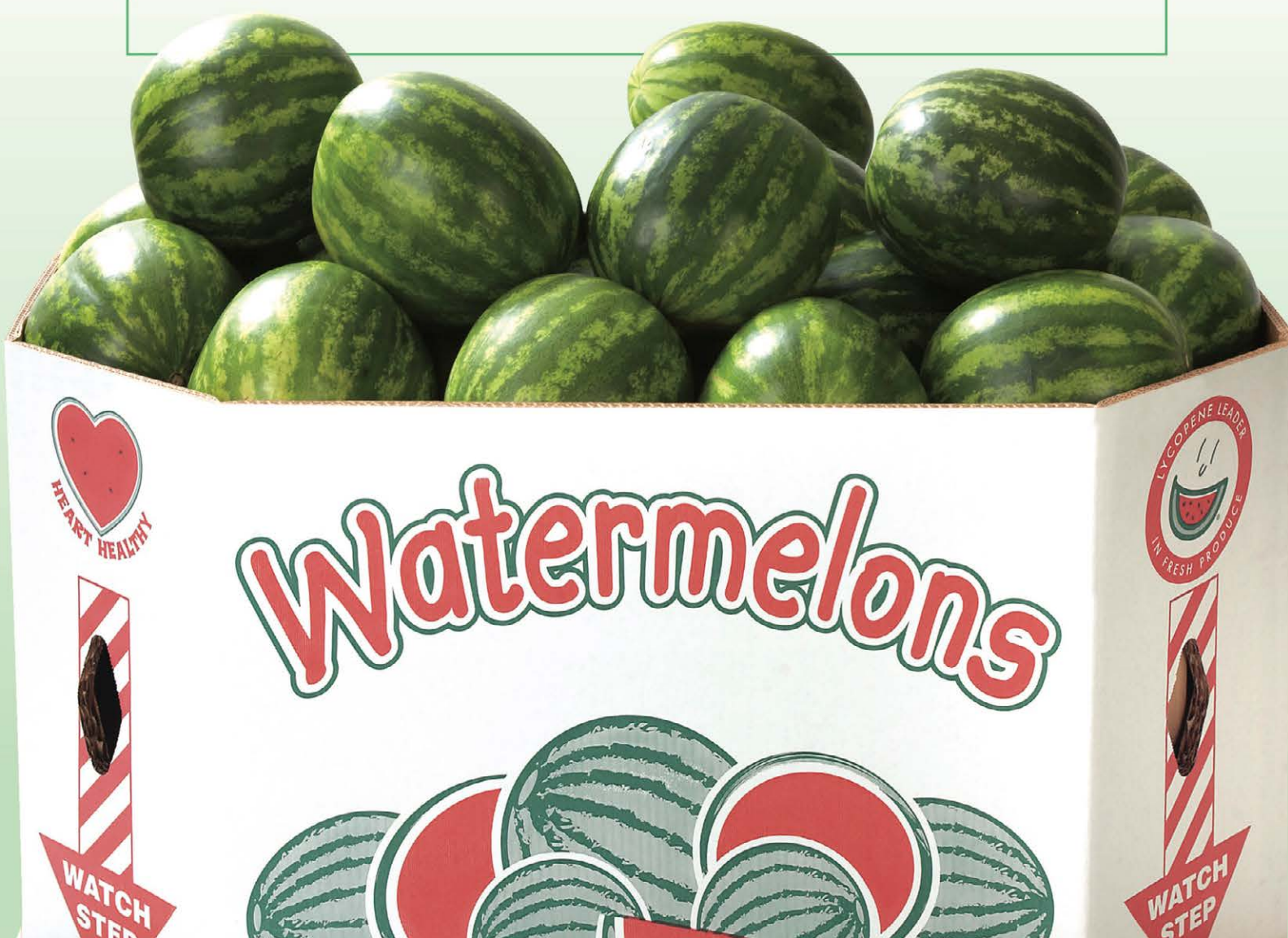
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National Report

Our National Watermelon Queen, Bethany Barfield was off to a blazing start on her 2022 Tour following our NWA Convention in Nashville. She's doing a fabulous job and loving every minute.

The first promotion was in French Lick, Indiana, for their annual convention. Bethany was sponsored and welcomed by IWA's President, Kelly Tyner, and wife Aaron. What a fabulous convention. It was great spending time with their own outgoing queen, Grace Rainey. Bethany enjoyed the Tyner girls, Katelyn and Maggie and their assistance with the auction. It was wonderful seeing old friends and making new ones. We congratulate Ms. Gabby German on being selected the 2022 Illiana Watermelon Queen! Special thanks to President Kelly Tyner and wife Aaron for sponsoring Queen Bethany to her first promotion and for making it so special!

Bethany's next stop was in Orlando, Florida for the in person NWPB Queen training weekend, following two years of having zoom training. It was a special treat to see everyone! Thanks to the Watermelon Board for all your efforts to make it informative and entertaining. The girls certainly learned valuable information they will use all year. Thanks for hosting, and to NWA for sponsoring.

Bethany was on hand for a Sprouts in-store promotion in the Jacksonville area. The customers loved having the National Watermelon Queen there to help them select the perfect melon, share her tips and recipes. The entire foyer of the store a watermelon display. This was sponsored and made possible with the NWPB Grant money.

Her next stop was the St Augustine Food and Wine Show. She was sponsored by the Watermelon Board, and enjoyed the joint efforts of the FWA, and Florida Department of Agriculture. Their accomplished Chef Justin was on hand creating tasty recipes and delicious slices of Florida Watermelon. Bethany enjoyed the opportunity to work with her FWA family and their beautiful Queen Amber Boykin and her past Coordinator, Debra Harrison, and Stephanie Barlow with the board. What a treat!

The Florida Watermelon Association's First Vice President, Rob Gibson and wife Kelli, and handsome son Bo, hosted a delicious dinner at Casa Reina, for the group in St Augustine. It was a perfect ending to an awesome promotion! Thanks Rob and Kelli! Special thanks to the National Watermelon Promotion Board for sponsoring and to Florida Watermelon Association for hosting this well attended event. Special thanks to Stephanie Barlow with the board and for working the event! The next stop, farm tours in the south Florida area. Bethany and Kerri visited sponsors Mr. James and Mrs. Penny Carlton of Sun Fresh Farms in Wauchula, Florida. We certainly love the Carltons and so appreciate their support.

Special thanks also to Seedway, Mr. Chuck Elam for helping sponsor our National Queen Bethany.

They enjoyed visits with Cole Leger and Will of Leger and Son at Futch Farms. They even managed to stop by and visit with Mr. Phil Turner Sr. Mr. Phil shared some of his watermelon expertise from his 60 years being a watermelon producer. The ladies finished the day with Mr. Tommy Glennos at Kids Choice. What a wonderful watermelon day!

The following day was a special treat for Bethany. Bethany and Kerri enjoyed a field day at the Enza Zadens Florida watermelon breeding facility. They were welcomed by Rod Jorgensen, Sales Manager, and his team. The educational and informative day featured seed trials and evaluating each. They were joined by Florida Queen, Amber Boykin, and many familiar faces. We wish to especially thank the Enza Zaden team for your sponsorship and your hospitality. The girls learned so much!

Bethany was soon off the Rio Grande Valley area of Texas for some fabulous promotions. Thanks to the Texas Coordinator, Barbara Duda for your gracious hospitality. Bethany was joined by Olivia Johnson the Texas Watermelon Queen for several HEB Stores in the McAllen area. The girls were a hit at HEB!

They enjoyed so many visits to growers, shippers, and industry providers in the RGV area. They were sponsored by: Nutrien; Jason Holley; Nutrien/Vestaron; Jorge Moreno; International Paper, Heather Raulerson; Syngenta; Kristen Warner; BASF, Rosie Aguirre; Gowen, Cameron; Seedway, Cleg and Bobby Arrellano; Prukop Farms; Triest, Rob Beaucort; Speedling, Charlie. We thank you for your support, we appreciate each of you! Log onto Facebook to National Watermelon Queen and click like to view all the photos from the RGV and other promotions.

Queen Bethany's next stop was Bell Elementary School. We were joined by the Florida Watermelon Queen, Amber Boykin. The girls were sponsored by Carrie and Dan Thomas, Diamond 99 Watermelons. They educated the all the third graders at the school on watermelon, and the importance of watermelon in the state, nation and to Gilchrist County. They were all treated to a slice of watermelon following the group activities. It was special to the girls to have the opportunity. Thank you, Diamond 99, Carrie, and Dan Thomas, for sponsoring us., we so appreciate your support.

We were treated to a delicious dinner by Trey and Katie Smith, thank you Trey! Our group headed out to the Newberry Watermelon Pageant. We enjoyed seeing Lisa Green and Morgan Hughes, they do a great job coordinating the event. We were also joined by another familiar face that was recently crowned the Miss Newberry Watermelon Festival Teen Queen Ashlee Thomas. Congratulations Ashlee. She's been attending the State and National conventions since she was a very little girl. She is Dan and Carrie Thomas's daughter.

The following morning was the parade followed by the festival. Bethany was honored to be their Grand Marshal this year. She was assisted by her niece Ayla, who says throwing the cany is her favorite part. We were soon off to the festival site. The festival had grown this year and was well attended. We enjoyed the Gulf Coast Queen, Madison Sieving, and Coordinator Madison Laney Johnson, Florida Queen Amber Boykin, and Coordinator Debra Harrison. Bethany's mom, Dora Barfield, and her brother also attended the festival.

Mayor Jordan Marlowe had Bethany come to the stage and presented her with the key to the city of Newberry. The mayor said she has had the key to our hearts, now she has the key to the key to our city. Bethany graciously and tearfully accepted it and spoke graciously from her heart. He said, "congratulations on bringing a national honor to our community and thank you for doing it with such grace and dignity!" Congratulations!

Congratulations also to the 2022 Newberry Queen Kensley Durance. We would like to thank the Newberry Festival and John Frey of Frey Farms for sponsoring Bethany.

More Next Printing,
Best of the season to each of you!
Eleanor Bullock etb.nwa@gmail.com
229.322.9933



IWA President Kelly Tyner, and our sponsor with all the visiting queens in French Lick, Indiana



Thank You Aaron, Kelly and girls for sponsoring us to your great convention.



Bethany and our friend Anita Field



Queen training, Carmine is interviewing Bethany



All the visiting queens with IWA Queen Grace



Paige has a social media class for the girls



Kendra Kennedy purchased this shirt for Bethany at the IWA auction, thank you



Thanks NWPB for the weekend



Congratulations Gabby German, 2022 Illiana Watermelon Queen



Special thanks to Stephanie and Juliemar

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National Pictures



Beautiful display at Sprouts in Jacksonville



Thanks Stephanie and NWPB for sponsoring us



One of the many charitable donations from Sun Fresh Farms to the Hardee Help Center, with the DeSoto Queen Alyssa, and the Carlton's granddaughter Maci Kate is the DeSoto Princess



Happy Customer at Sprouts



Chef Justin with the Florida Department of AG is ready for the demonstration & filming



A visit to Futch Farms, with the Leger & Son team Cole Leger & Will



Have you had your watermelon today?



Our Queen Bethany is Festival ready



A Chat with Mr. Phil Turner Sr



Chef Justin, Stephanie Barlow, with Amber and Bethany at the Food & Wine Festival in St Augustine



Thank you Rob Gibson & Kelli for the delicious dinner



A visit to Kids Choice Watermelons and Mr. Tommy Glennos



The ladies are ready with the slices for the Food & Wine Festival



A Special thank you to Penny and James Carlton, Sun Fresh Farms for helping sponsor us to Florida



The Enza Zedens Field Day team, thanks so much for the invitation and the generous sponsorship

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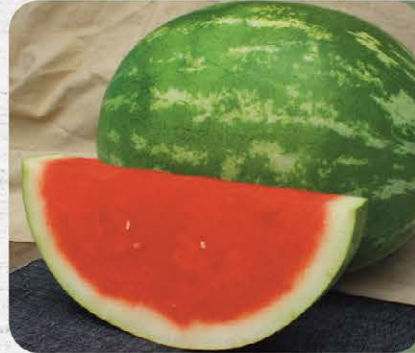
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Southwest GA
229.891.8226

Repeat The Reward

National Pictures



Bethany and Amber, thank you again Mr. Rod Jorgensen for this informative day!



Bethany is talking to the Bell Third Graders



Thank you Lisa Green & Morgan Hughes for all your help



Thanks to Seedway Chris and Chuck for your help with sponsorship



Carrie has Watermelon Slices for all the third graders at Bell



Our Bethany is Parade Grand Marshal and her niece Ayla in the Newberry Parade, thank you Newberry



Thank you again Mr. Rod Jorgensen and Enza Zaden



Bethany is enjoying a slice and the kids at Bell!



Bethany is excited to be home in Newberry



Bethany and Amber visit with Ciara Bishop, Katelyn Miller and Ellis at Melon 1



Thank you Trey & Katie for the delicious dinner



A tearful National Queen as she is presented the Key To the City from Mayor Jordan Marlowe



Bell Elementary with sponsor and teacher Carrie Thomas of Diamond 99 Watermelons, Thank You



Bethany, Amber and Ashlee visit with Jessica Southard Pardo (2010 National Watermelon Queen) in Newberry



Bethany's family, with her mom Dora is at the festival



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Congratulations Kensley Durance, 2022 Newberry Queen



Thank you Jody Wiggins of Wiggins Watermelons and Rosie of BASF



Rosie with Kelton and Ranell Borders and the girls in the Valley



Bethany gives a closer look at the Key to the City of Newberry



Thank you to this team and blessings for a great season



Thank you for your support!



A visit with Kerri's family at Wiggins Farms at their McAllen location



Thank you and hope the season awesome



Thank you Speedling for your support



Olivia and Bethany with Kristin Warner, with Syngenta and a sponsor for the RGV tour, thank you Kristin!



Chuck and this great team with the girls in McAllen area, thank you Seedway



Keep those plants coming and thank you for your support!



Bethany helping the HEB customers in Mission and HEB in McAllen Stores



Thanks to this familiar face, love the mural



Rosie and this team show off this nice field, thank you

Florida Report

Greetings from the “Sunshine State of Florida”

Our Florida Watermelon Season has begun, don't forget to go out and pick up a “Fresh from Florida Watermelons” in your local grocery stores. Queen Amber and I have been very busy these last few months starting off our year of promotions with visiting watermelons farmers to packing shed, CARES dinner, National Watermelon Promotions Board Queen Training, Color 5 K Run, Mobley Plant World, many schools Ag-Ventures Days, Desoto County Watermelon Pageant, Wine & Food Festival with Chef Justin from Dept of Agriculture along with a video shooting in his kitchen in Tallahassee, Enza Zaden Field Day, 70th Anniversary Farmers Markets opening, Detwiler's Farm Market and Sprouts Grocery Stores. Thank you to all of our sponsors for all of these wonderful promotions.

Also, the first of May our First Runner-Up Queen Kirsten Waldron traveled to the Darlington Raceway for the Camping World Truck Race with our #41 Nascar Driver Ross Chastain. Queen Kirsten and Nascar Driver Ross shared all the things about our Florida Watermelons. All the race fans enjoyed that day. Thank you to Rachel Syngo and Susan Chastain for an awesome day and wonderful promotion.

Please come and join us for a fun-filled week for our 54rd Annual Florida Watermelon Convention being held on November 1 – 3, 2022 at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort & Golf Club in St. Petersburg, Florida. Our theme this year is “Farmers: The Original Gamblers”. President Trey Miller and our first lady Katelyn is planning a lot of fun-filled events for that week. On Thursday night we will be crowning our 2023 Florida Watermelon Queen. Registration is now open, Be sure and go on our website today and register for our 54th Annual Florida Watermelon Convention or contact Debbie Johnson – at Debbie@flfwa.com to make all of your registration that is needed. It going to be lots of FUN!!

In the next few months we will doing more North Florida Farm tours and attending our north Florida Watermelons festival. We will also be at many grocery stores all over the state of Florida promoting something everyone loves “Watermelons!”.

We are all very blessed with all of our watermelon promotions that we can't cover all of them in our National Watermelon Vinline Editions. If you like to see more Be sure to always go on and check out our Florida Watermelon “Facebook” and “Instagram” pages to see all of our watermelon promotions.

Hope everyone has a Safe and Prosperous Watermelon Season!

Until next time!

Debra Harrison -
 Florida Watermelon Promotions Coordinator
 Cell: (863) 633-8306 Email: Debra@flfwa.com



Congratulations to Gabby German for being crowned the 2022 Illiana Watermelon Queen



Many years of a family tradition with Mr. Phil Turner, Sr and his son Phil Jr. and grandson Phillip. Queen Amber enjoyed listening to many stories of his family of farming years.



This little runner coming in first enjoying a slice of Fresh Florida Watermelons with Queen Amber. Thanks to Gibson Select for donating the watermelons.



Nascar Driver Ross Chastain and Queen Kirsten at the Darlington Speedway.



Thank you to NWPB for hosting our Annual Queen Training for many years.



Queen Amber at the “Cares Dinner” with Laura Land. Everyone enjoyed the delicious recipes prepared by Laura Land.



Hillsborough County “Ag Day” at the Florida State Fairgrounds.



Queen Amber visiting with our President Trey Miller at the Melon 1 Packing Shed. Thanks to Melon 1 for lunch that day.



Congratulations to Alyssa Armentrout for being selected as the 2022 Desoto County Watermelon Queen.



A beautiful day at the “Food and Wine Festival” with Chef Justin with Fresh from Florida and Stephanie Simek with NWPB.



Thank you to Paul Sawyer for always be a part and helping out with our Farm Tours every year.



A day in the watermelon field. Thank you Enza Zaden for having us.



Queen Amber at Mobley Plant World learning the processes from the seed to the plant.



Queen Amber at “Detwilers Farmers Market”.



Queen Amber visiting with Past President Mark Bryan and his son Jake in Immokalee.



Beautiful morning for a “Grand Opening” for Sprouts Farmers Market in Apopka.

Georgia Report

Hello everyone!

It's summertime in Georgia, yall! We are so excited our favorite fruit is ready and sweeter than ever! GWA Queen promotions are in full swing, and our 2022 Queen Adahy has been hard at work!

March was filled with numerous school farm day visits across the state. Queen Adahy loves interacting with the scholars, teaching them about the nutritional and health benefits of this sweet, summertime treat! We are grateful for the time spent at schools promoting watermelon and emphasizing the importance of agriculture.

April began with Queen Media Training in Orlando, Florida hosted by the National Watermelon Promotion Board. The state Queens participated in the communication skills workshop, social media posting tips, and Facebook live video demonstration practice. Other promotional visits have included Wesleyan College Health Fair, Great Southland Stampede Rodeo at UGA, Summer Culinary Camp Open House, and Cordele Watermelon Hot Air Balloon event.

GWA Queen Promotions Program is collaborating with the Georgia Ag Experience, a 35-foot mobile classroom on wheels showcasing GA agriculture. The unit travels to summer camps, community organizations, and schools teaching students about where their food comes from. It's been a fun adventure joining their team on the road!

Queen Adahy is looking forward to joining Ross Chastain at the Camping World Series race at Charlotte Motor Speedway during the Memorial Day Weekend. She will also be spending time with South Georgia watermelon producers learning about their operations and all the hard work that goes into growing our crops and supplying the economy with a safe and healthy product. Georgia Public Broadcasting will be interviewing Adahy for their TV program, A Fork in the Road, which will air later in the season. The show will focus on agriculture across Georgia and the Queen's role as the public relations representative for the GWA.

Just before the fourth of July holiday, Adahy will travel to the WXIA TV studio to interview with Atlanta and Company. She will be demonstrating a watermelon recipe and teaching the viewers how to pick out the perfect watermelon. Other promotions Queen Adahy will attend will be a Summer Culinary Camp and local libraries kicking off their summer reading programs.

Would you like to schedule a date for our Georgia Watermelon Queen to visit your location? Please call Dawn Cheplick at 706-845-8575 or dcheplick@asginfo.net to book the queen.

Sincerely,
Dawn Cheplick, Promotions Coordinator
706-845-8575
dcheplick@asginfo.net



Leaning Ladder Summer Culinary Camp Open House



Queen Adahy sharing her watermelon knowledge at Appling County Elementary



Adahy visits with over 1600 students at the UGA Great Southland Stampede Rodeo in Athens GA



Media time with Georgia Public Broadcasting!



Queen Training and quality time with Carmine and Vanessa of Gallo Communications.

Gulf Coast Report

Happy start to summer watermelon friends,

We have been having tons of fun!

Since the last time you heard from us, we have been invited to the Down To Earth campaign event with our Alabama Commissioner of Ag, Rick Pate, our Governor, Kay Ivey, and the Sweet Grown Alabama team (whom we receive our retail, school, and farmers market grant from).

We attended Queens Training with the NWPB, and learned all about watermelons and how best to market them. We had an absolute blast, as always, with our promotion board team, and we are so excited to be putting our new skills that we learned to use.

We attended the Newberry Watermelon Festival pageant and parade as well, and it's always fun getting to spend a weekend with sister queens, and others, that share the same love for WATERMELON!

We look forward to a wonderful and busy summer promoting the greatest industry in the world.

We hope you all had a fun and safe Memorial Day Weekend.

See you soon,

Madison Sieving, Madison Johnson, and The Gulf Coast Watermelon Association



Illiana Report

Greetings from Illiana!

Planting season is upon us and we are anxious to see what the growing season has in store for our delicious Illiana watermelons!

Queen Gabby has been busy this spring learning our industry so she can promote Indiana and Illinois grown watermelon to the best of her ability. She traveled to Orlando, Florida to take part in Queen Training put together by the National Watermelon Promotion Board. It was two days filled with industry knowledge, consumer insights, and communication tips that will serve as the backbone of her success as watermelon queen. Huge thank you to Stephanie Barlow and Juliemar Rosado for putting together such a comprehensive training program! Queen Gabby's favorite part was meeting with the talented Carmine and Vanessa Gallo. They provided expert communication tips for her and are always quick to share positive feedback as well as things she should continue to work on. Their guidance is always greatly appreciated!

Gabby's first official promotion was the Day on the Farm event put on by the Knox County School Corporation. She met with over 400 3rd Graders at the Southwest Purdue Ag Extension greenhouse where she taught them about all things watermelon! Each student got to take home their very own watermelon plant and a few lucky classes got to try on her "princess crown!" It was a wonderful way to get students excited about their community's agricultural industry!

While in Knox County, Queen Gabby also took a farm tour at Melon Acres in Oaktown, Indiana. A big thank you to Mike Horrall, former IWA President and Melon Acres owner, for providing Gabby with the tour! Another big shout-out goes to Carrie Smith, former IWA President and Queen Coordinator, who assisted Gabby on her adventures this week. The knowledge you shared with her is greatly appreciated!

Lastly, Queen Gabby has been busy at home making videos for our social media pages! So far, Gabby has created a video for Mother's Day, where she put together an "edible arrangements" style watermelon basket for her Mom. It was a delicious way to show mom how sweet she is! She also put together a video on how to make a patriotic watermelon pizza for Memorial Day, using whipped topping, strawberries, and blueberries! She even had a little kitchen helper, a cute little bird on her shoulder!

Things will start gearing up for Queen Gabby as we enter the Illiana watermelon season this summer. We're looking forward to a wonderful season!

Kind Regards,
Lana Brothers
(314)724-6305
iwapromocoordinator@gmail.com



Thank you Stephanie and Juliemar for the wonderful weekend at Queen Training!



Over 400 students learned about the Illiana watermelon industry



Queen Training in Orlando, Florida



Melon Acres farm tour



Day on the Farm fun with Knox County 3rd graders



Mother's Day tutorial



Planting seeds of knowledge



Memorial Day tutorial with the cutest little sidekick

Mar-del Report

The Mar-Del Watermelon Association proudly introduces our 2022 Mar-Del Watermelon Queen, Miss Jenna Anger. Jenna is the 20 year old daughter of Neil and Gina Anger from Bridgeville, Delaware. She attends the University of Alabama where she majors in Biology and Environmental Science with a minor in Spanish. Jenna's queen year started off by attending the Illiana Watermelon Convention. She was excited to meet the other state watermelon queens and welcome the new 2022 Iliana Watermelon Queen. After the convention Jenna was able to fly back to Delaware for Spring break and just in time for a tour of Vincent Farms. Jenna was able to see the beginning stages of the watermelon seed and the germination process. She is excited about planting watermelons and of course, promoting the harvest of watermelon this Summer! Jenna attended Queen Training put on by the Watermelon Promotion Board in Orlando, Florida. Jenna learned about proper etiquette at promotions and how to conduct herself in a T.V. interview. It was great to be back in person for the Queen training and to see everyone again. The Mar-Del Watermelon Season is quickly approaching. We are gearing up for a busy season and can't wait to see everyone during the Summer months! Looking forward to another Mar-Delicious season.



Thank you to the Watermelon Promotion board for hosting an awesome Queen Training.



A behind the scenes look at the 2022 Mar-Del Watermelon Queens pictures.



All State Queens after Media training.



Queen Jenna and the newly crowned Illiana Watermelon Queen.



Queen Jenna and the Florida Queen ready for Queen training.



Queen Jenna in the greenhouse learning about watermelon plants.



Queen Jenna excited for a weekend full of all things watermelon.



Queen Jenna at Vincent Farms learning about the watermelon seed germination process.

North Carolina Report

Greetings from North Carolina,

Summertime is here and the North Carolina watermelon season will soon be in full swing. In our last article, we gave a little overview of the North Carolina Watermelon Association Annual Convention in Wrightsville Beach, NC. It was a great convention with lots of growers and industry leaders in attendance. At the convention, Miss Emory New of Nashville, NC was selected as our 2022 North Carolina Watermelon Queen. Queen Emory is a graduate of North Carolina State University with a degree in Ag and Bio Engineering. She has a true passion for promoting agriculture and we are looking forward to a great year.

Queen Emory has been busy since her crowning in March and lots more activities are just around the corner. To ensure the new state Queens a successful start to their season the National Watermelon Promotion Board hosted their annual queen training in Orlando, Florida. It was a great learning experience for Emory and our first runner-up Kayley Merritt. Stephanie and Juliemar did an excellent job of helping the young ladies understand the industry and how to promote watermelon to any audience. Both Emory and Kayley enjoyed learning from Carmine and Vanessa Gallo on how to shape their individual watermelon message.

North Carolina State University held the grand opening for its new Plant Science Center and Emory was on hand to represent the North Carolina Watermelon Association. During the reception, Emory discussed NC agriculture with Ag Commissioner Steve Troxler, former Dean Richard Linton, several North Carolina legislators, commodity leaders and farmers. Emory shared watermelon with travels at two North Carolina Welcome Centers during National Tourism Week.

She also enjoyed participating in the Got to Be NC Ag Festival. During the festival Emory was hosted in the tractor parade by NC Department of Agriculture Marketing Specialist Beth Farrell. Emory presented honors during the annual Farm to School awards presentation. She rounded out the day serving as a special guest in the Food Lion Pavilion at the festival. In the pavilion, she meet many festival attendees and helped them learn more about North Carolina Watermelons.

Queen Emory is excited about all the promotional events to come. We hope to see you during the season.

Sharon Rogers
 Promotions Coordinator
 ncwatermelonqueen@gmail.com
 336-583-9630



Queen Emory and NC first runner-up Kayley Merritt enjoyed learning about communication from Carmine and Vanessa Gallo.



Emory met lots of consumers in the Food Lion Pavilion at the Got to be NC Ag Festival



State Queens learning all about watermelon at the NWPB Queen Training in Orlando



Watermelon was well represented at the Got to be NC Ag Festival



Queen Emory practicing her social media video skills at Queen Training



Queen Emory with NC Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler, recognizing the winners of the Farm to School calendar art contest.



Emory and Kayley also enjoyed a quick trip to Disney while in Orlando



More fun from the Got to be NC Ag Festival



It was a fun day meeting consumers at the I-95 Welcome Center for National Tourism Day



Tractor parade at the Got to be NC Ag Festival



Queen Emory sharing the watermelon message with consumers



NC State University Plant Science Building Grand Opening



National Tourism Day in North Carolina



Senator Brent Jackson and Queen Emory at the NC State University Plant Science Building Grand Opening



Queen Emory at the Got to be NC Ag Festival



One of Emory's recent Instagram posts, promoting using the whole watermelon

South Carolina Report

We started off our year with a trip to the North Carolina Convention in Wrightsville Beach, NC. Many thanks to Sharon Rogers and the NC Watermelon Association for being such wonderful hosts. On April 1st, SC Queen, Samantha Nichols, made her first school appearance at Southside Christian School in Greenville, SC, where grades 1 through 5 participated in their annual field day celebration.

On April 8-10, Samantha and first runner-up, Anna Dicks, traveled to Orlando, Florida, where they participated in the Queen Training Program provided by the NWPB. Again, it was a most beneficial training session and the girls learned a great deal about what it takes to be the perfect representative for each respective state association. They even managed to enjoy a fun day at Disney before heading home.

A visit on May 13th, to Homeland Park Elementary School in Anderson, SC, was next on the calendar. Samantha talked to the children about growing watermelons and then read a fun watermelon book to them before passing out packets of wild flower seeds for them to take home and plant. On May 17th, we made our yearly visit with our friends at Making It Grow in Sumter, SC. Samantha talked about many watermelon facts and made a recipe of watermelon ham rolls for the viewers. It was a huge hit and Amanda McNulty, Sean Flynn and the rest of the crew thoroughly enjoyed eating the special treats.

Low Country Live was the next appearance on May 23rd in Mt. Pleasant, SC. Again, Samantha was a hit with her recipe and watermelon information. We no sooner arrived home than we were cutting melons at Rudolph Gordon Elementary School in Simpsonville, SC, on May 25-26. May 30th found Samantha at Your Carolina with Jack and Megan, preparing a Watermelon Avacodo dip.

May 31st and June 1st, had us at another field day for Monarch Elementary in Simpsonville, SC. June 1st and June 2nd, was another cutting for Oakview Elementary School in Greenville, SC. Many thanks to all who helped with our double booking at schools that had over 1,500 students each.

The Atlanta Braves 5k run is coming up on June 5-6 in Atlanta, Georgia with the Georgia Association. Other upcoming events in June are the Hampton Watermelon Festival and South Carolina farm visits with our National Queen, Bethany Barfield in attendance.

Many more functions are on our calendar for the month of July. It is so good to be up and running again at a normal pace for the summer. We wish everyone a good and productive season and hope to see you all soon.

Warmest Watermelon Wishes,

Ann Bryant
 SC promotions Coordinator
 Abryant028@charter.net
 864-303-3995



Queen Samantha with Hamilton Dicks in Wrightsville Beach, NC.



NC and SC having fun at Mickey's house!



Samantha welcoming newly crowned NC Queen, Emory New.



Reading to the students at Homeland Park Elementary School in Anderson, SC.



Mary Claire enjoying watermelon at Southside Christian with Samantha.



Students learning to make the watermelon W.



Passing out stickers and slices at Southside Christian in Greenville, SC.



It is always a great day at Making It Grow with Amanda McNulty and crew.



Getting ready for the rush of students.



Another productive day at Low Country Live in Mt. Pleasant, SC.



Wonderful instructors at Queen Training in Orlando, Florida.



Students enjoying field day at Rudolph Gordon Elementary in Simpsonville, SC.



Fun group of girls at Queen Training.



A few of the 1,500 students at Rudolph Gordon.



Samantha and Emily Dicks enjoying a day at Disney.



Samantha couldn't resist having a picture with this little watermelon princess.

Texas Report

Hello to our wonderful watermelon friends. I hope this letter finds everyone well and I pray our growers' crops are thriving and plentiful and that the market is exceptionally good.

Olivia, our 2022 Texas Watermelon Queen has been very busy as she started her year with a trip to Orlando, Florida for Queen Training. The NWPB team of Stephanie Barlow and Juliemar Rosado did a great job explaining the details of the job and the expectations that go along with it to the girls, and they helped educate them about watermelon for the questions that can arise. The communication experts Carmine and Vanessa Gallo helped each girl with their on-camera interviews and public speaking. Two past national queens, Katelyn Miller and Brandy John also gave insight into the job and how to be the best representative for their associations.

After Queen Training Olivia and I attended the Viva Fresh Expo in Dallas, Texas and met some of the wonderful people here in Texas involved in the produce industry. From there Olivia took the initiative and set up some school visits in Snook, Texas and in her hometown of Center. She also has been busy posting recipes on Facebook and Instagram so more people can see how versatile watermelon is.

In May, Olivia, the National Queen, Bethany, Mrs. Kerri Wiggins and I had a farm tour in the Rio Grande Valley where we first visited Mr. Darren Wiggins' packing shed and fields. We also met a young farmer, Will Beckwith, who is working hard in the valley to produce our favorite crop. Then we went to see Mr. Mike Helle and his son who were starting the first cutting on their 300 acre farm. We also met with Mr. Jody Wiggins at his packing shed where his watermelons would quickly be shipped out. Next, we visited Mr. Greg Lothringer at his farm. After those visits Olivia and Bethany did an in-store promotion at an HEB in Mission, Texas. As part of the tour we visited the Borders family at their farm in Edinburg, Texas and we sampled their delicious watermelon right out of the field. We took a short trip to Speedling where they grow the watermelon transplants in the greenhouse, then went on to Rio Fresh Farms. That second afternoon the girls had another HEB promotion in McAllen, Texas. Right before they headed home the girls stopped in to say "Hello" to our friend, Gerry Lozano, at Sandia Depot. It was a busy, but very eye-opening trip for the girls to see all that goes on in the Rio Grande Valley. We must say a big thank you to all those who took us around and sponsored the different visits and meals. Those wonderful folks were Rosie Aguirre with BASF, Cameron Cruz with Gowan Seed, Bobby Arrellano, Clayton Fultz and Chuck Elam with Seedway, Kristin Warner with Syngenta, and Mr. Jorge Moreno of Vestaron.

I look forward to telling you about all the things Olivia will be doing in the coming months. In the meantime, I sincerely hope you will have a great season for the most wonderful fruit ever created.

Best regards,
Barbara Duda TWA Coordinator
bcduda62@gmail.com



Olivia's on-camera interview practice at Queen Training



Sharing watermelon at an elementary school



Carmine and Vanessa Gallo gave great advice.



A seed spit contest at Joaquin High School with FFA students



The Viva Fresh Expo with our friends from the NWPB, Meagan McKenna and Juliemar Rosado



Visiting Mr. Greg Lothringer at his farm



Meeting Mr. Richard De Los Santos at Viva Fresh



With Mr. Jody Wiggins and Rosie Aguirre at Wiggins Watermelons



Story time at a school in Snook, Texas



Mrs. Kristin Warner stopped by to see us at an HEB promotion.



A happy class



A visit to the Borders' family farm with Dalton and Kelton Borders



Starting the RGV tour at Mr. Darren Wiggins packing shed with his family



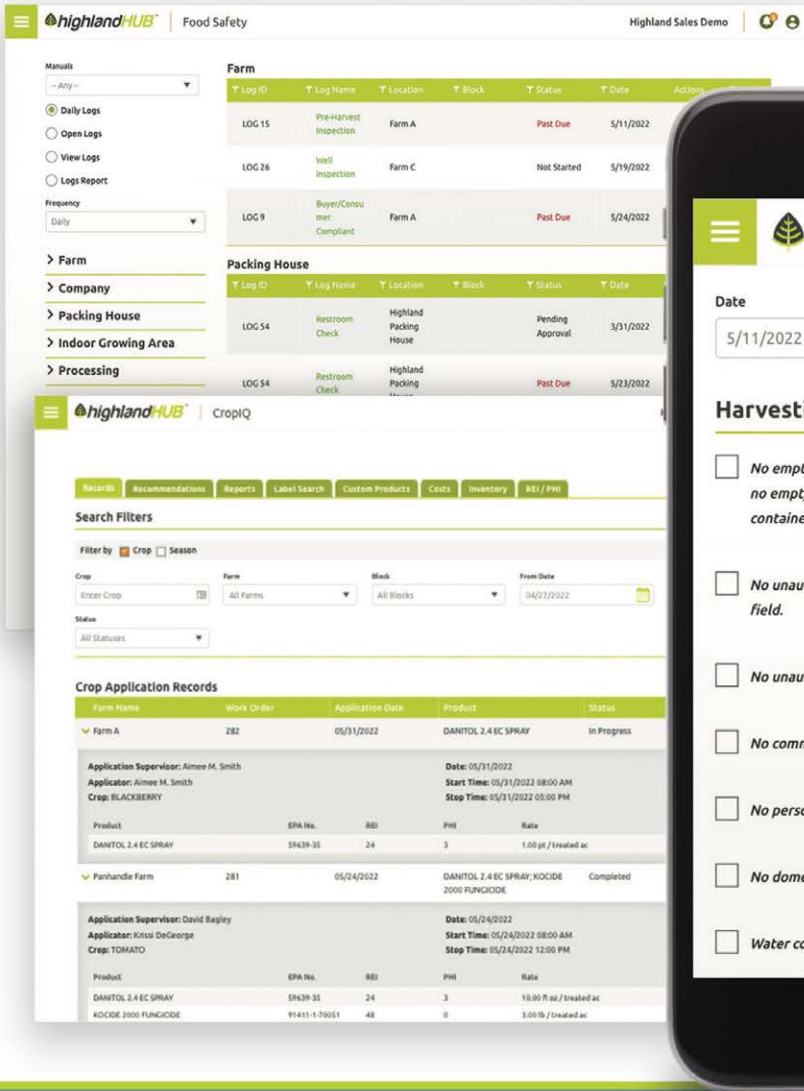
Saying "Hello" to Mr. Gerry Lozano at Sandia Depot with our Seedway friends



It's great to meet young farmers like Will Beckwith.



Saying "Hello" to Mr. Gerry Lozano at Sandia Depot with our Seedway friends



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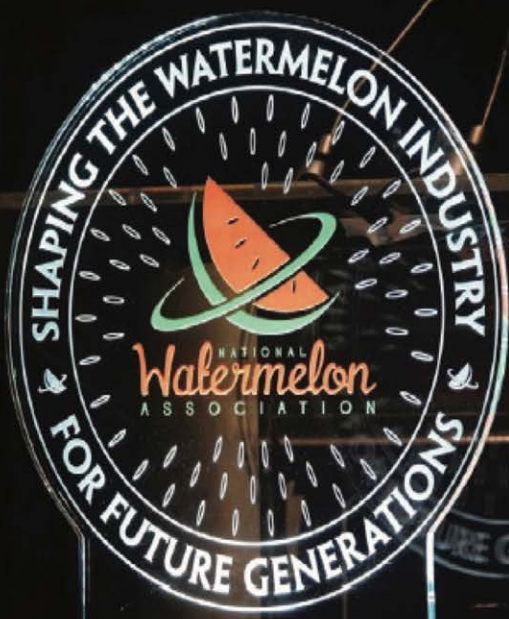
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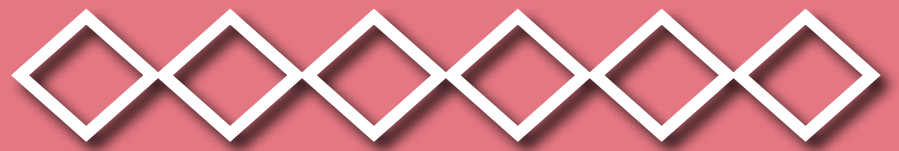
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SIERRA MADRE



SIERRA NEVADA

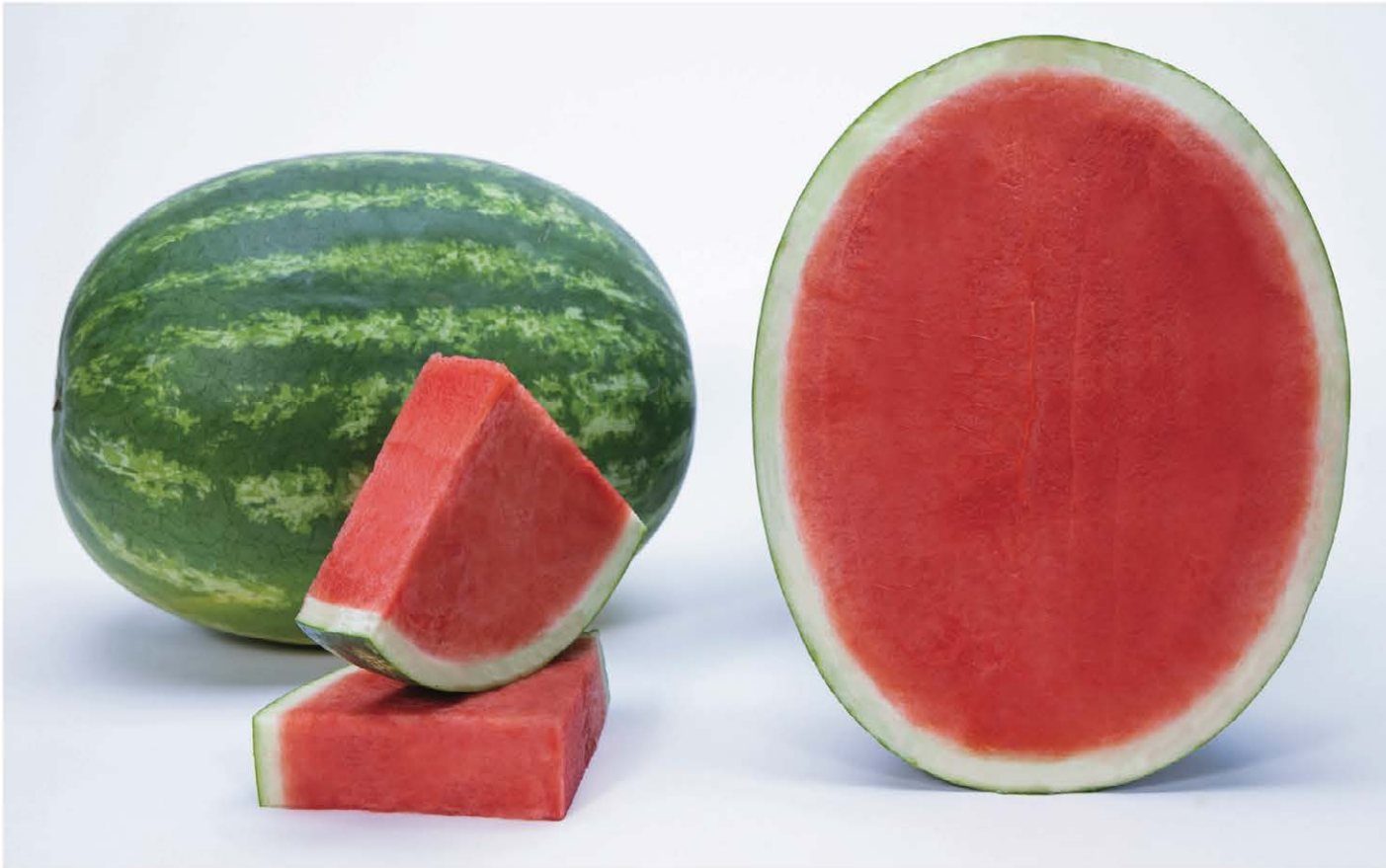
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Further details of the Valor promotion such as percentage of the sales that will be donated, and period of the promotion will be made available by December 2021.

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