Dairy Festival
Opens On Friday

ABBEVILLE — The people of Abbeville are preparing for the 25th annual Louisiana Dairy Festival, dedicated to the late Roy Theriot slated to get underway Friday, Oct. 26.

Each year the Dairy Festival gets better and better, and this celebration won't be any different.

The dairy industry is one of the state's largest agricultural businesses and the City of Abbeville feels the dairy producers should get their share of the festival season.

The celebration caps a long season of festivals which began in late August. This year's celebration promises to be one of the best yet.

Theriot Honored

Festival organizers have dedicated the event to the late Roy Theriot of Abbeville. From its beginning 25 years ago, Theriot was the festival's main organizer and planner. It is in his honor that this year's festival will be held.

The highlight is of course the coronation of the Dairy Festival Queen which will take place at 7 p.m. Friday. The contestants will be judged at the A.A. Comeaux Recreation Center in Abbeville.

Quite a few beautiful young ladies from Acadia will be competing for this coveted title.

Fireworks Displays

The three-day festival will feature fireworks displays on two of the days. On Friday the display will take place following the queen's coronation and on Saturday a grand fireworks show is planned for 9 p.m. at the Comeaux Center.

Here is a list of events for the three-day celebration:

On Thursday, Oct. 25:
- Blessing of dairy products, 5:30 p.m. at the reviewing stand at the courthouse square;
- 9 p.m. barn dance with music by L.J. Viator at Clem's Dance Hall.

Friday, Oct. 26:
- 9 a.m. baby contest at the recreation center;
- Dairy products show at 10 a.m. at A.M. Primeaux and Mouelous Store; awards luncheon at 11 a.m. at the American Legion Hall;
- Children's parade at 4 p.m.; 7 p.m. Queen's coronation;
- Following the coronation will be a fireworks display.

Saturday, Oct. 27:
- 9 a.m. at Blackham Coliseum in Lafayette a livestock show;
- 1 p.m. at the courthouse square; speeches by Lt. Gov. Jimmy Fitzmorris and Senator Jesse Knowles;
- 2:15 p.m., a concert at the square; 2:30 p.m., the grand parade; 8 p.m., Dairy Festival grand finale dance with Clifton Chenier providing the entertainment at the center; 9 p.m. at the center, a fireworks display.

Dairy Supplier of the Year will be Richard E. Hobgood who has long been associated with the supplier end of the dairy business. He has served the dairy industry in the Southeast for the past 14 years.

Charles Russell Brownell Jr., M.D., mayor of Morgan City since 1951, has been named Humanitarian of the Year for the 1973 Dairy Festival. He has long been interested in conservation, waterways and outdoor recreation.

Wallace Deoy Smith of Kentwood, will be this year's Dairy Festival King. He has served on the Louisiana Milk Commission since 1962. He has worked closely with all farmers while in the dairy business for 18 years.

Restaurateur of the Year is Ernest L. Masson Jr. of New Orleans. He is chairman of the executive committee of the Louisiana Tourist Development Commission and a member of the restaurant association.

One of the judges for the queen's contest is Mrs. Mamie Kilkenon of Elm Grove, La. She is active in politics and real estate. She is on the board of judges and on the executive committee of the Dairy Festival Queen in Abbeville.

Past president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Dr. Clyde L. Rougueu is the 1973 Dairy Festival King. Through the years Dr. Rougueu became noted for his work with young people and his development of crack colleges for dairy cattle judging teams. He is one of the nation's leading judges of dairy cattle and has served as president of the American Jersey Cattle Club.

Dairy Festival Contestants

Ladies will be competing on Friday, Oct. 26, for the A.A. Comeaux Center for the title of Dairy Festival Queen in Abbeville. They are: Jennifer Seaton, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald; Youngville Miss Ellen Hotard, 19, Mrs. Richard Hotard of Norco; (b) Rebecca Ann Daigle, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Yvonne Daigle of Abbeville; Miss Blanche Hou, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Houye of St. Mary and.