Dairy Festival To Be Staged In Abbeville

An enthusiastic group of Louisiana Dairy Festival and Fair officials and workers gathered this week for a kickoff meeting for the 1963 festival to be staged in Abbeville, October 17, 18 and 19.

The meeting was held at the home of State Comptroller Roy R. Theriot, executive director of the festival association.

Theriot, in outlining the program for the 15th annual festival, pointed out that several new features will be added, including a Junior dairy cattle show, with 16 divisions which will be open to 4-H and Future Farmers of America members who are residents of Louisiana. Entries for this event are not confined to Abbeville and Vermilion parish, Theriot said, but are invited from all over the state.

Information and entry blanks may be secured through the local county agents. The show will be under the supervision of Murphy Veillon, Vermilion parish county agent. Information may be secured through Post Office Box 500, Abbeville.

AWARDS besides the 18 divisions of Guernsey, Holstein and Jersey breeds will include four showmanship divisions, with first, second and third class awards in each section. Also featured for the young people in the 1963 festival will be a Junior girls' dairy demonstration and judging of dairy products, with Miss Constance Escude, Vermilion parish home demonstration agent, as chairman of both events.

Theriot said that the annual festival mass will be held at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, October 17, in the St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, with Rt. Rev. Msgr. I. A. Martin, pastor, officiating. Official opening of the festival will be held at 4:30 p.m. Thursday and will be presided over by J. Elliott Code, followed by a barbecue at the Diamond A Ranch, home of Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Abshire. This will precede one of the unique features of the festival, the Fais-do-doe, or Acadian street dance, with competing Cajun bands at each end of Concord St. in downtown Abbeville.

A king and queen of the Fais-do-doe will be selected on the basis of costume. The event will be further highlighted by entertainment featuring Alden Rogel, folk singer, and Tony Bucci, internationally famous accordionist.

OCTOBER 18 events will include a baby show, a butter churning contest, a hand concert, a Negro parade, and other scheduled contests. That evening, a new queen of Louisiana Dairyland to succeed Betty Powers of Opelousas will be selected. She and the festival king will be crowned at ceremonies to be followed by a coronation ball with music by Rusty Brown and the Cell Block Seven.

On October 18, a children's parade, sponsored by the Abbeville Quota Club, will be held, and main events of the afternoon will be an address by a principal speaker, whose identity has not yet been made, and by Louisiana gubernatorial candidates. A mammoth parade in honor of the king and queen will follow, and the festival will conclude with a "Music In Motion" program sponsored by the Mount Carmel Bagettes under the direction of Dr. S. J. Laborde at 5 p.m. and a rodeo at Abshire's Rodeo Arena at 8 p.m.

"We feel that we are offering the people of Louisiana and tourists from everywhere a fine program this year," Theriot said. "We have been planning it since the day after the festival ended last year, and our efforts have been rewarded with the securing of a wonderful group of judges and honorees. We will have more than 20 visiting queens and princesses, among them some of the most beautiful girls in the state."

THERIOT said that already over 30 marching bands have entered the parade. He pointed out that this year, the festival will honor especially the recently formed Golden Age Club of Abbeville, with a club queen and seven other members to ride a specially built float in the parade.

"Our honorees this year are all outstanding men, and our judges..."