

Mrs. Miller Gets Ready for the Farm Show

By Mrs. Charles G. McSparran
Farm Feature Writer

As soon as the old year ends, many rural Pennsylvanians' thoughts turn to the annual Pennsylvania State Farm Show because it means grooming animals and poultry, polishing apples, selecting vegetables, grains, farm crops and products. To some it meant preparation all of last summer. As each fruit and vegetable ripened and was canned, they kept the very best specimen for the Farm Show.

And these were not just ordinary, run-of-the-mill products. They had to be perfect fruits and vegetables, picked at the peak of perfection, packed in the jars just right and carefully watched as they were processed to maintain the full amount of liquid.

A young woman who will be exhibiting canned goods for the fourth year at the Farm Show is Mrs. Dale L. (Janet) Miller of 101 Casey Drive, Willow Street.

She will have a dozen or more single entry jars of canned fruits and vegetables and displays (five jars of different kinds) of vegetables and fruits. Because of her father's illness and death last summer, she did not get as much canning done as usual.

Why does she do this? Prize money surely is an incentive for most people, but Mrs. Miller says she does it just for the ribbons. She has received 15 ribbons in the past three years.

This isn't many compared to some county exhibitors, but is a pretty good percentage for the amount exhibited for a newcomer in the field.

She doesn't can just for fairs. Her family uses her canned foods. Of canning she says, "I really enjoy it."

Speaking of ribbons, Mrs. Miller has 500 ribbons, 100 of which are blue ones, which she has received from three Lancaster County fairs. Now she is trying to decide how to keep and display all the ribbons.

She started exhibiting her canned goods in 1964. She took things to the Manheim Community Farm Show two years, but quit because she thought it was out of her community.

However, she has exhibited at West Lampeter and Southern Lancaster County Community Fair eight years and has taken as many as 85 entries of canned goods. She also took a few Christmas arrangements to

Solanco Fair and took some prizes on them.

Mrs. Miller's interest in fairs does not stop with exhibiting and winning ribbons. She has served the past two years on the Art Department committee of the West Lampeter Fair.

This exhibiting at fairs seems to be something that gets in your blood. Even Millers' children, Sheri and Herbi, enter things at the West Lampeter Fair and each have about 20 ribbons. They exhibited flowers, rabbits and sewing.

Janet, the daughter of Mrs. Morton Witmer and the late Mr. Witmer of Hessdale, graduated from Lampeter-Strasburg High School in 1957. She took the commercial course but also some home economic subjects.

While in school, she helped the FFA boys scrub their pigs and animals in preparation for the Lampeter Fair. At that time she exhibited a dress, a Swedish embroidered towel and a lemon meringue pie.

Dale is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Miller of New Danville. His father is retired from New Holland Machine Company and does a lot of gardening. He supplies Janet with all kinds of fresh vegetables for canning. His mother works at the Reformed Mennonite Home on Manor Street and West End Avenue, Lancaster.

Millers have a daughter Sheri, 11 years old, who is in sixth grade

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Mrs. Dale L. Miller, Willow Street, will exhibit some of these canned fruits and vegetables at the Pennsylvania Farm Show next week. She also did the oil painting of

the New Providence Church of God in the background. A few of her recipe books may be seen beneath her canned goods display.

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