

Herdswoman, Sportswoman, Trainer, Nurse, Homemaker

Miss Shirley Dickel, A Versatile Farmerette

Happiness is tending to cattle, burros, lambs, a goat dogs and cats for farmerette Miss Shirley A. Dickel, Willow Street RD2. She says "It's a good life, I really enjoy it. I was always outdoors a lot."

Shirley farms on the halves for Samuel K. Shotzberger who lives on the farm. The 70 acre farm is known as "Ebony Acres" and is located on Shultz Road. Shirley has been farming it for four years.

How did Miss Dickel, a city girl, take up farming? Shotzberger went to the same church as Dickels', Otterbein United Methodist Church in Lancaster. She has belonged to the church since 1949. Mr. Shotzberger owned a farm at Palmyra and Shirley used to go there to visit.

When she was there she would go to the fields to pick stones, bale hay, and so forth. He sold that farm and bought his farm where he now resides. Three years later he wanted to put on some cattle and asked her if she would be interested in farming it. She decided to try it and loves it.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Erisman Dickel, who live near Conestoga, thought she was crazy. They said it was just a fad and would never last. Now they like to go there and her father, especially, likes to help with the work sometimes.

"Missy", her registered purebred German shepherd dog, is always by her side. She said "I always wanted a German shepherd dog and I wanted a good one. I trained her. She was very easy to train." Missy seems to know everything her mistress says and is most obedient. She had one litter of pups and Shirley has the one registered male pup, "Rex", which is full grown now. Missy has an ancestral background from Roy Rodgers' "Bullet" dog.

Shirley does practically all the farm work herself, keeps records and does her own bookwork. She has a boy to come in to help sometimes. Also her father and Shotzberger help some.

She has really improved the looks of the farm by cleaning out a grove of pine trees beside the house and cleaning out fence rows all over the farm.

She operates a medium sized tractor with a front end loader, a manure spreader and two mowers. They have all 70 acres in pasture where they graze 70 to 80 head of cows, heifers and bulls in the summer.

Last spring they bought a whole herd of 120 and kept them for one and a half months, then



Miss Shirley A. Dickel, Willow Street RD2, sits at the desk she refinished to do her farm bookwork.



Shirley is more attached to this two year old bull "Shalco Colossal 419", or "Big Fellow", than any animal on her farm.

sold half of them. They kept the rest till the end of summer and sold them. They are looking now for cows to buy and pasture this summer.

This winter they have 11 registered Black Angus cows,

seven heifers and three bulls. The one bull "Shalco Colossal 419" will be two years old in May. Shirley calls him "Big Fellow."

She says "I've gotten more attached to him than any animal." He was three months old when they bought him. They went out to Nebraska August, 1970, and bought him at a sale as a calf with his dam, and at the same time bought another cow with a heifer calf. He is a milk tempered bull and Shirley halter broke him. They will use him as their herd sire this year. He is a

son of "Canadian Colossal", the highest priced selling Angus bull ever sold.

They have one of Canadian Colossal's daughters that is one year old and another six months old heifer. They bred two cows artificially to him when they started farming. They still have five of the original cows in their herd. Two of their bulls are yearlings.

Shirley is not afraid to tackle any farm project.

She weans the calves at seven months and halter breaks them at eight months. She castrates the bull calves, ear tags and tattoos all the calves and registers them.

She says "When the calves are small it's a 24 hour job. With heifers freshening I check them every two hours." She was able to save a breech birth heifer calf and another heifer calf by being on the scene at the right time to assist the delivery. They treat 95 per cent of the cattle illnesses themselves.

They sell the steer calves in the fall. They sold three heifers last year for breeding and expect to sell two yearling heifers and one yearling bull April 1 at the Pennsylvania Angus Association sale at Millarden Farm, Annville. Shirley says she hopes to have 20 to 25 cows sometime, some heifers and some bulls to keep over.

Shotzberger is a member of the Pennsylvania Angus Association and the American Angus Association. He and Shirley go to

the meetings, three or four shows and about three sales a year. They are held mostly at Harrisburg. They attended a sale last October at Penn State University.

They have sold steers to FFA. One of the steers came in first at Manheim Fair.

They have two ram lambs and a billy goat. Shirley says she's going to get rid of the goat because he's a nuisance but she would like to get a couple ewes and raise some sheep.

Shirley had a few ducks one year. Last year she had some geese. She didn't like them because they were dirty and ate her flowers so she plans to get ducks again this year.

She has a Cician burro mare and filly. The mare is bred to foal this fall. She has them halter broke and is training the younger one to pull a cart. She would like to raise a few and sell some. She thinks they are nicer and safer for children than ponies.

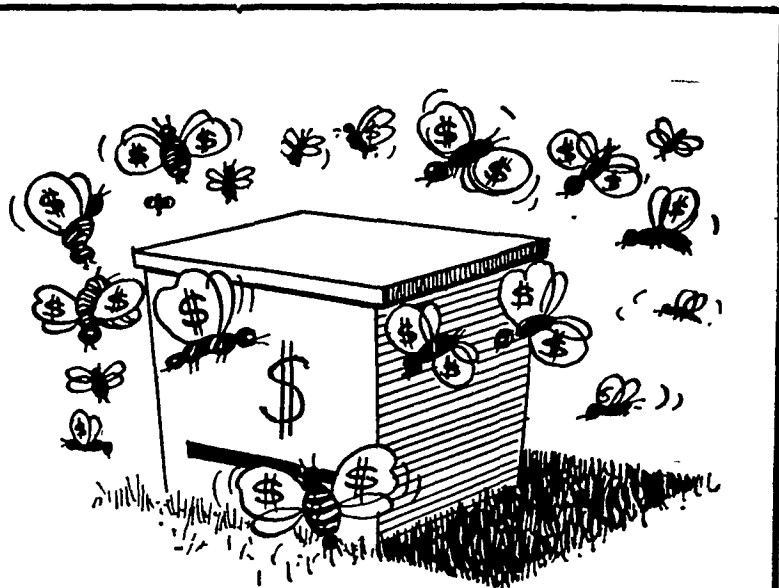
There's a story that goes with these animals. They are taupes colored and have a brown streak that goes up the middle of their back to their head and another brown streak that goes across their shoulders, thus forming a cross. 'Tis said that they did not have these brown markings until after Christ rode one on his triumphant entry into Jerusalem before his crucifixion.

Shirley had 30 guinea pigs at one time and made pens for them. They weren't too profitable

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Miss Dickel and "Missy", her German shepherd dog, are constant companions.



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