

Horses are a family affair

By Melissa Piper

For the John Christensen family of Manheim R4, raising, breeding and showing horses has become a family affair. The Christensens own the Silver Meadow Horse Farm off the Elizabethtown Rd., and along with giving riding instruction in both English and Western, the family breed and show registered Arabian horses.

Not natives to the County, the family moved to the Lancaster area three years ago coming from West Virginia. After some months of looking for a farm suited for raising horses, the family settled at their present location and began a family

enterprise.

Mrs. Christensen, an accomplished equestrienne, has been teaching riding for the past three years, instructing students in English and Western along with some side-saddle techniques.

At the present she has some 30 students who learn in either groups or semi-private lessons. "We were surprised at the number of adults that have requested lessons," she noted.

"Many husband and wife teams come to learn as it is a recreation they can do together."

Along with the regular instruction, Mrs. Christensen stresses health care and grooming

techniques. "People can learn to ride but so often they neglect the health care and grooming that is so essential," she commented.

"We try to give an appreciation of horses from all angles and not only riding."

Mr. Christensen, who works in business, helps with the showing and breeding portions of the program. Both he and his wife are members of the Arabian Horse Registry, the Pa. Arabian Horse Association, the International Arabian Horse Association and several local Arabian Horse clubs. Mr. Christensen is also a member of the Pa. Army Reserves.

The Christensens have two children, Karen 15, and Eric 11. Karen is currently learning to ride side-saddle and Eric is leaning the fine points of English riding.

Two of the Christensens' registered Arabians won several outstanding awards in the past month. Silver Phoenicia, a grey three-year old filly and Silver Empress her two-year old half-sister each won their Eastern Futurity classes at the Eastern All-Arabian Horse Show held recently in Devon. This marked the second year in a row that the two horses

had won the same honor.

Silver Empress also scored highly at the Delaware Arabian Show where she won the two-year old filly class and was judged as the junior champion filly and the reserve champion mare.

Silver Meadow Pixy, a registered half-Arabian pony mare, also owned by the Christensens placed highly at the region 16 championships held in conjunction with the Delaware All-Arabian Show.

Along with the many awards that the Christensens' Arabians have won in breed shows, the family has also done well at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition held annually in Harrisburg. Silver Meadow horses have done well the past two years at the Pa. show and the Christensens hope to repeat their performance at this year's upcoming show.

While so many horse farms have taken an interest in just having a great quantity of stock for show, the Christensens have kept their stock at a minimum keeping only the best in quality.

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Eric Christensen, 11, saddles up his pony Pixie. Young Eric is learning the fine points of riding from his mother, Mrs. John Christensen.

Berks Co. 4-Hers show winning hogs

James Shrawder, a 4-Her from Kempton R2, exhibited the grand champion hog at the Berks County 4-H round-up held recently in Leesport.

The 4-Her's hog weighed in at 230 lbs. and sold to Hatfield Packing Co. for \$1.00 per pound. James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Lee Shrawder.

Exhibiting the reserve grand champion of the show was Wendy Yoder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Yoder, Shoemakersville. Wendy's crossbred hog sold for \$.85 per pound to Yoder's meat Market in Shoemakersville. The young lady is a member of the Northern Berks 4-H Dairy and Swine Club.

Some 5529 pounds of pork sold following the show with a total selling value recorded at \$3577.38. The average weight of the hogs was 204.78 pounds.

Meg Turner, Kempton R2, was named the senior champion fitter with James

Shrawder, Kempton R2 selected as the reserve fitter.

In the junior division, Wendy Yoder placed first with Scott Turn, Kempton R2 placing second.

Meg Turn also received the first place senior showman award with Fred Yoder, Shoemakersville, receiving reserve honors.

In the junior division Wendy Yoder placed first with Scott Turn receiving second place honors.

Terry Shearer, farm manager for Pigeon Hill Farms, was the judge for the round-up.



Goggles are believed to derive their name from the old English term for squinting.

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