

York Co. student turns hobby into family business

By MELISSA PIPER HELLAM — As a youngster, Jody Patterson always dreamed of having a horse. After much coaxing and gentle reminding his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Patterson, helped to make his wishes come true and over the

years, Jody has seen his interest in horses grow from two family pets to several registered quarter horses.

The Pattersons moved to a 12-acre farm near Hellam, York R11, four years ago and have begun raising, training and showing registered

quarter horses as a small family business.

Jody, 17, along with his sister, Jennifer, age 23, have put a lot of time and effort into training and showing the horses they now own and have won several awards at the Pa. Livestock Exposition and the Penn National Horse Show. The youths show in the western equitation classes and also in the halter competitions.

As a member of the Eastern York FFA Chapter, Jody has included the horses in his projects along with field corn and fattening beef animals. Although the youth has not taken work experience to come home in the afternoons, after school he can be found working with the animals themselves or helping to complete a new stable unit.

"I try to work as much as I can with the horses when I get home," Jody noted.

"We do get home relatively early and it has helped me get jobs done around the farm."

Jody takes care of almost every aspect of the horse operation including training and maintenance and refers to cleaning the stables as the most "tiresome" duty required.

The FFA member also has a keen eye for judging horses and was the third place individual in competition at Penn State last year. His victory was at State FFA Days where he has also placed high individually in the livestock judging competitions. Jody has judged horses for 4-H in York County as another youth activity.

Jody was a charter member of the "Horse 'n Round" County Club which formed about two years ago, and served the group as treasurer. He is also a member of the American Quarter Horse Association and the Pa. Quarter Horse Association.

Received Keystone Degree
Jody has spent four years in FFA work and has been treasurer and parliamentarian. Committee work has also been on his list of activities. This past January, Jody was one of the recipients of the Keystone Farming Degrees, the highest FFA degree awarded in the state. "It was a goal I have been working for ever since I joined FFA," the youth explained. "I was certainly happy that I got it before leaving the organization."

The Eastern York student is still finishing his senior year in high school, but keeps busy not only with his horses but with building a new stable area.

Jody's father, who is a stone mason, and the youth have begun building the barn unit during their free time. The new area will include several box stalls and a small observation area for visitors. Jody is quite proud of the stable unit and is waiting anxiously for it to be finished. "We've worked



Jody Patterson spends much of his free time working with his Quarter horses. Jody is a senior at Eastern York School in Wrightsville.



Cleaning tack is just one of the many jobs included in raising horses. Here Jody takes a cloth to one of his western saddles.

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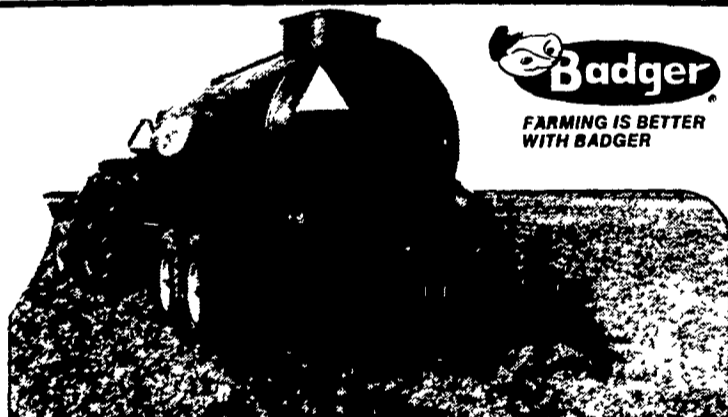
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