City girl

(Continued from Page 56)

school has four acres of land, she explained, and before going to work on an actual farm, students are assigned a 15 x 15 foot lot which they are responsible for tending from the initial preparation of the soil through the harvest of whatever crop they elect to grow.

Having put in her time at the land lab at the end of her sophomore year, Linda spent last summer working on a farm near Beach Lake in Wayne County, Pa.

Asked how she likes working on a farm as compared to her ag studies in school, Linda replied emphatically, "I like working much better." Practical experience, she pointed out, is so much different from the work at school which "goes strictly by the book."

Because of the absence of farms in the area, opportunity for practical experience, particularly with farm animals, is limited during the city students' school year.

"We do get extensive training in ag mechanics though," Linda said, because the school has a lot of equipment there to work with.

The ag department also keeps about 500 chickens, in cages Linda noted, and sells the eggs and the produce grown at the school out of the ag office.

So far this summer, Linda has gained a considerable range of practical experience at the Haas farm. She regularly tends the family's calves, which she says she really enjoys "but it gets messy sometimes when they get loose." She has mowed hay and even forked manure, Haas pointed out, and just the night before this interview, helped with a calving.

"Last night I thought she was going to head back to New York," Haas remarked, "but she didn't."

Complications set in after the cow gave birth, and although a veterinarian was fortunately on hand to meet the crisis, according to Haas, Linda stayed right with it and even held the cow's tail while the vet worked.

"I could take that with no problem," Linda said easily, "and I could take a lot worse."

Linda, who would like to someday own her own farm, rolled her big blue eyes skyward at the question of how city parents react to their daughter's announcement that she wants to be a farmer.

"They were really surprised," she said.

Although neither of her parents object to her decision, Linda believes that her mother, who was born and raised on a farm in Germany, is particularly pleased.

It is difficult to determine exactly how a city youth becomes attracted to farming as a way of life, but for Linda, at least, it seems to have had a lot to do with the summers spent at Beach Lake while she was growing up. The Guagliano's own a small farm near Beach Lake where they go each summer "and sometimes in the winter," Linda added, "whenever we can get away."

Her father works winters in a city bakery but has worked summers at a Jewish camp at Beach Lake since 1958, she explained, "that is why he bought the house." According to Linda, she spent a lot of time during those summers hanging around a nearby farm where the Guagliano's bought their milk.

Linda, a seasoned traveler who plans on making her third trip to Germany next summer - her second extended stay in Germany alone - claims she doesn't get homesick, and Mr. Haas observed that "she really seems to like it here and has just made herself at home." Mrs. Haas suggested that a question of how Linda likes Pennsylvania food was in order, and Linda readily expressed her fondness for certain foods like dried beef gravy, ham and green beans, and new brown potatoes, which she said she'd never tasted before coming here.

From all appearances, Linda is one city girl who has taken to farm life as the old saying goes, "like a duck to water." And as for the Haas family, they seem to be enjoying having her as much as she enjoys being there.

TRY A CLASSIFIED

Berks Society 3

The Society of Farm Women Group 3 from Berks County held their annual picnic at the Boyertown Community Park recently.

After a covered dish social and games played by the 34 in attendance, Mrs. Ernest Hartline, president, conducted a business meeting.

The county realized a profit of $375 on their Hoe Down. The money will be used for a wheel chair and lambs wool for Berks Heim.

The county convention will be held on October 2 at the Berks Ag building. Mrs. William Moyer will serve on the nominating committee.

The ladies will make bed pads on August 16 at the Boyertown Park from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on August 24 and will be a daytime field trip.

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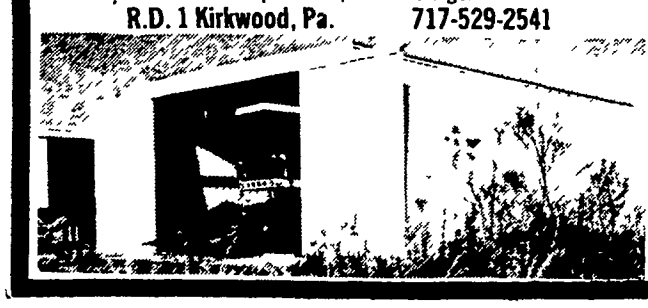

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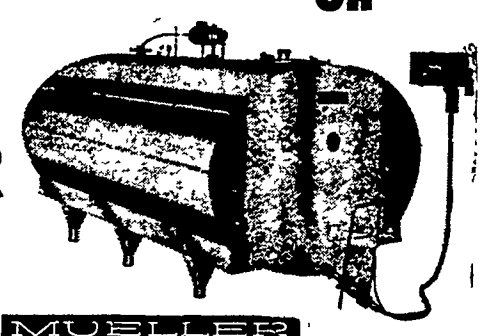

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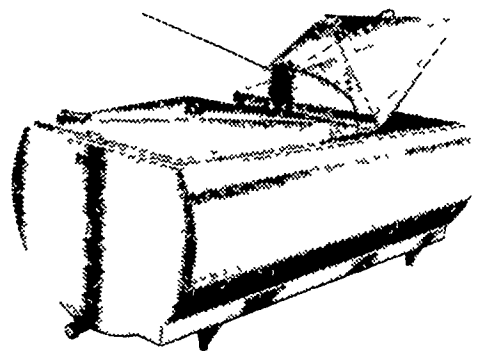

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