

The Jacob H. Fishers

Goats are their business, hobby, and love



The Fishers have learned to enjoy goats not only as a livelihood, but also as a hobby. Here, they stand with their collection of goat trinkets which range anywhere from large stuffed animals and wall paintings to a tiny 1/4-inch goat charm for a bracelet

must have thought we were with these three constantly bawling children," she chuckles. To finish her story, she adds that that was the first and last episode of crying children at sales. Believe it or not, they got used to the idea of selling the goats," she states.

The Fishers have four out of the five good milking breeds in their herd. They have Alpine, Toppenburg, Saanen, and Nubian. The only one they don't have is LaMancha. Although the animals don't follow a particular breed color, there are distinctive ways to tell them apart. The Nubians are the most easily identified because of their exceptionally long, droopy ears and Roman-type noses. When Nubians are crossed with any other breed, the length is added to a normal-sized ear. Fisher does a lot of crossbreeding because this creates a "hybrid vigor" and better milk.

At present, the Fishers are in the business primarily for the milk production, and not for the breeding stock, itself.

Like the different breeds of dairy cows, different goats give different types of milk.

Nubians, for instance, are higher in butterfat and give

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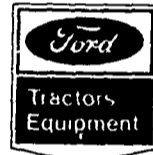
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By JOANNE SPAHR MANHEIM - Standing by the goat stall, getting a story, the reporter suddenly feels a slight tap on her shoulder. Turning around, she finds an eager and adorable yearling goat staring her straight in the face, pleading with its eyes for attention.

Asked if the goat was trained to do this, Mrs. Jacob H. Fisher, Jr., (Jane), Manheim R1, replies nonchalantly, "Oh, no, she just learned to do that herself." The taps keep coming until the reporter is forced to stop the interview and succumb to the desire to play with the animal. Then, the other yearlings in the pen get into the act, and the reporter is nibbled, licked, and bumped until everybody in the stall is content.

Watching the scene with amusement, Jane finally says with a mixture of pride and love in her voice, "They all have their own personalities and little traits that set them apart."

She and her husband

should know. After 21 years of raising goats and building up their present herd to the size of 80, they are experts in the business. And, they are one of the three state inspected goat dairies in the area. All told, the Fishers milk 35 goats and have the rest for herd replacement and breeding stock.

"We raise all our female kids, and let them freshen," explains Fisher. "Then once a year or so we cull the herd, keeping the best milkers for ourselves." They sell all their buck kids, however. They have special kidding pens for the raising of the little ones.

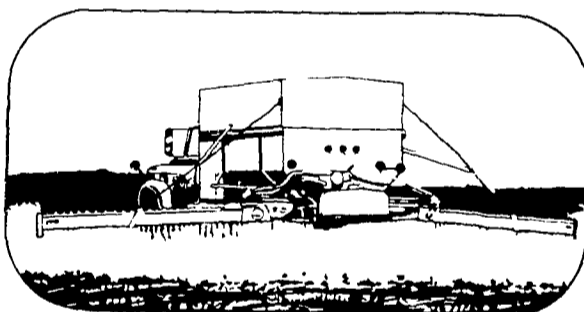
Jane remembers the first time they went to sell a goat at an auction.

"We had the three children along," she laughs. "And, the whole time we walked along, all of them cried, 'We want Betty!' - the whole time!" she adds for emphasis.

"Jake and I just looked at each other," she goes on, "and wondered what kind of parents the other people

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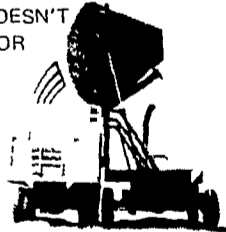
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