

Dairy princess is as natural as her product

By JUDY MITCHELL
Berks Co. Reporter
SHOEMAKERSVILLE, Pa. — In looks and manner, Berks County's Dairy Princess Nedra Yoder is as natural as the products she promotes, and the attractive 17-year-old brunette approaches life with a vitality that's amazing.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Yoder of Shoemakersville, Nedra has been active in showing dairy animals since joining 4-H at the age of nine, and she's been a member of the Hamburg FFA since 11th grade. Her enthusiasm for showing, she feels, developed quite naturally. Her father has been showing dairy cattle for about 28 years now, and Nedra had been accompanying her parents to show events "ever since I was born."

Although Nedra appeared at the Berks County Dairy Princess handing out show ribbons at local fairs this summer, she was also busy making the fair circuit with

her Milking Shorthorns, showing at Reading, Allentown, and Kutztown, as well as at Bloomsburg, York, the Junior Dairy and the All American shows in Harrisburg, Maryland, and Columbus, Ohio.

Nedra took her share of honors in dairy events this past summer but says "the neatest thing" was having her dam and daughter named best of show at the national Milking Shorthorn competition in Columbus. This was her first year showing at nationals, where she also had the first place aged cow in the youth division there. For Nedra, who says she gets her share of ribbing about the lack of competition in the Milking Shorthorn breed category at area events, her placings in the national contest were a particularly sweet victory.

How does Nedra like studying ag and belonging to the FFA? "That was one of the questions I was asked at the dairy princess pageant," she says, recalling that her

answer was, "if I don't get anything more out of it, it is a sure ego boost." Nedra was the pioneer female in the ag program at Hamburg last year, paving the way for three more entrants this year.

"I'm not just one of the boys either," Nedra claims, pointing out that the male members of the group treat her respectfully, minding their manners when she's around.

Nedra is actually quite pleased with her ag studies and cites the practical knowledge she is gaining such as "feed rations to get the most out of your cow" in milk production. Although she was busy accumulating the credits necessary to enter college during her first two years of high school, Nedra was able to ease up on academics and enter the ag program in her junior year. She says she's wanted to be a nurse "ever since I was a little girl," but her increasing interest in farm animals is causing her to take a look at the field of veterinary science, particularly since she's been accepted in the ag program at Penn State following graduation in June. Nedra presently has dairy projects



Nedra "almost flipped out" when her dam and daughter were named best of show at the National Milking Shorthorn competition held in Columbus, Ohio, this year. Pictured with Nedra is the younger member of the winning dam and daughter team.

with four Milking Shorthorns and one Guernsey; owns two pigs and one steer which she plans on showing and selling at the Farm Show this January; and keeps a seven-year-old pet goat.

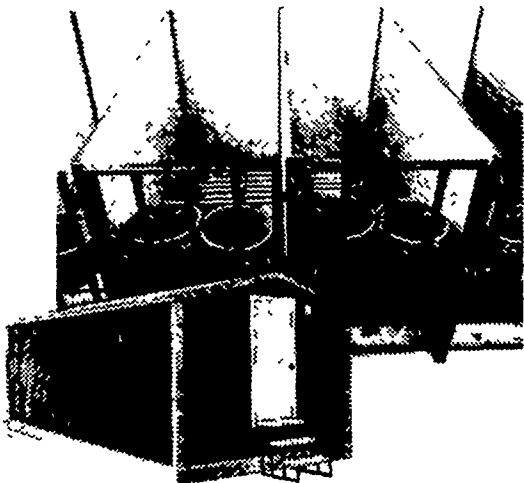
Nedra admits she was a bit dismayed at the disorganization within the local chapter when she joined the FFA last year and recalls that she worked hard with the guys at shaping it

up. Her efforts were obviously appreciated too, because her fellow members subsequently elected her secretary of the chapter. During her first year, Nedra

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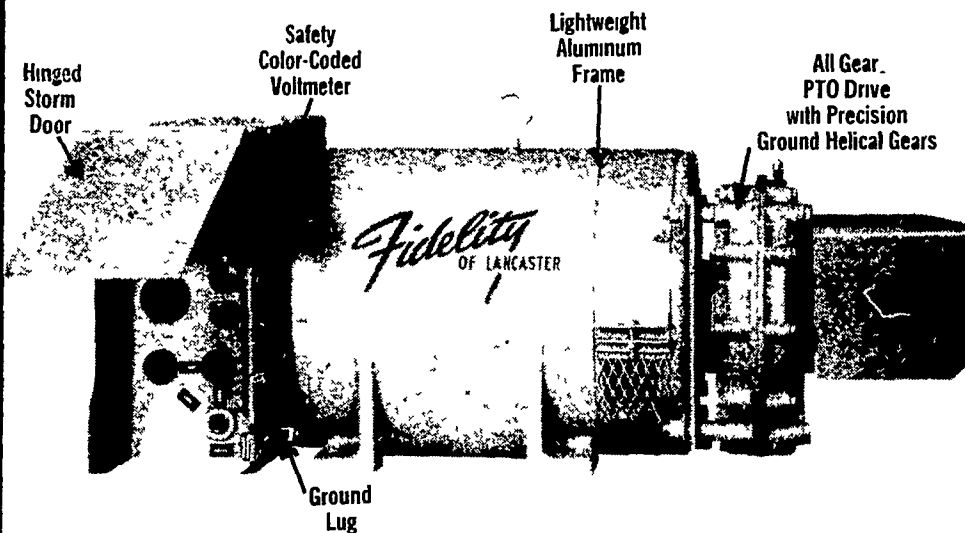
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