

# Kathy King 'came home' to dairying

By JOYCE BUPP  
York Co. Reporter

DELTA, Pa. - A young Maryland couple left a farm sale near the southern York County town of Fawn Grove back in 1967 greatly disappointed. They had been counting on buying the property to establish their own dairy farm, but the final bid had climbed way beyond their purchasing powers.

The same day, about 15 miles away, another farmer died, leaving his family with the farm to sell. Through a series of word-of-mouth contacts, that 218-acre farm and the Maryland couple with a dream found each other. In the Spring of 1968, Paul and Kathy King, now of Delta R2, had come "home."

"I love it here; I never want to move away," asserts Kathy, an avid supporter of the dairy industry and of dairy farming as a way of life.

When she was a senior in high school, Kathy and her family had moved to rural Maryland from the town of Rockville, not far from Washington, D.C. One of her new friends was the daughter of the King family, owners of the Kingstead Holsteins operation.

"The cows needed us," she recalls, telling of how she and Paul married four months after they met. He was managing a dairy and hog farm. For the next two years, Kathy pitched in to help with the work and learn the farming industry from the ground floor.

"One day - and it took me all day - when I was baking my very first pie, August Nagle, of the Redgate Holstein herd, visited us and gave us the opportunity to rent his farm and purchase the herd and machinery," she says.

During the next five years, the Kings rented Nagle's farm, located at the foot of Sugarloaf Mountain, near Frederick. Then came the chance to locate in Pennsylvania on a farm of their very own.

"We moved for a year," Kathy laughingly remembers. It was a 100-mile trip each way; and it took countless round trips to move all the machinery, feeds, cows, and household goods.

"Coming around the Beltway with a manure



Early morning, and late at night, the cows are of number one importance at the Kingway farming operation. Here, Kathy King washes the milkers.

spreader loaded with forks and shovels made a real picture! And as we started to load up the tractor trailer to move the cows, one decided to deliver a calf. That calf rode to York County in the trunk of a car, still wet."

But once the unpacking began, the day got even more interesting.

"I was carrying things upstairs to put away when I glanced out the window. There was our son Peter, four years old, steering the car down over the hill, after the brake had left loose while he was in it. It stopped when it crashed through the living room wall. Fortunately, he wasn't hurt; and the wall got remodeled a second time," related Kathy, shaking her head.

The Kings have adopted three children in the 17 years they've been married. Peter, a seventh grader at Red Lion Middle School, is now 14. A lover of motorcycles, Peter has become an experienced helper around the Kingway Farm and often does the evening milking while Paul and Kathy finish the field work.

Nature-loving David is 11 and in the fifth grade. The owner of a recently purchased beehive, David is frequently seen mowing the grass with his bug-catching net in hand, adding to his extensive 4-H entomology collection.

Daughter Leslie is a third-

grade avid horse enthusiast. At eight, she's musically inclined, but isn't ready to give up her gymnastic lessons for the piano just yet. The youngsters all have 4-H dairy project animals and are involved in a number of other 4-H activities and projects.

Since that unforgettable day when the Kings moved North, they've become activists in county and statewide dairy organizations. Paul and Kathy, who had never been a 4-H member until after she was married, helped organize the first local dairy club in York County. The Milk and Money Club's 20 members recently finished fifth in the Hoard's Dairymen cow judging contest. Kathy is also a leader of the Airville Community Club, heading up dairy, entomology, and candle-making interests.

"It upset me when 4-H rules were changed some time ago to make the cut-off age 19," she emphasizes. If that had been in effect when we married, I'd never gotten involved in the organization and probably wouldn't be a leader today."

A Junior Holstein Association for the county was also organized by the Kings. This youth dairy group stages an annual showing and fitting training day, and has sponsored fund-raising calf raffles. Kathy heads up the state Holstein

group's projects.

"We just purchased a school bus, too," adds Kathy, "And we'll be using it to travel to our activities. In fact, the entire group attended a wedding 100 miles away in the new bus. People really looked when we pulled up in front of the church!"

Transporting the kids to their annual Youth Fellowship retreat will be another use for the bus. Kingway's cattle truck has

been tapped for this job a time or two in the past, but Kathy admits that sometimes that method of travel got just a bit chilly.

Both the Kings are Sunday School teachers; Kathy, however, is currently taking what she jokingly calls her "sabbatical leave."

"I thought it was time for me to be taught by someone else for awhile and pick up

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