

Know Where the Activities Will Be?
Read the Farm Women Calendar.

Del. FFA'er chosen for foreign work experience

DOVER, Del. -- A University of Delaware agriculture student is the first Delawarean ever to be selected for the Future Farmers of America Work Experience Abroad program.

Twenty-one-year-old Jo Ann Stafford will spend the summer in Sweden, Norway, or Italy, living and working on a family farm. Half-way through the summer she will join other program participants in some central location to share experiences. Those who can afford it will then spend one and one-half weeks in a whirlwind European tour before getting back to business of agriculture.

Ms. Stafford says all program participants are responsible for their own expenses, so she is hoping area businesses and organizations will come to her support. As a final requirement of the program, she will show slides of her experiences to local groups upon her return.

Ms. Stafford was selected for the Work Experience Abroad program on the basis

of her extensive FFA experience. A member of FFA for six years, she has been statewide vice-president for the past four. Her FFA projects have included raising rabbits, caring for her horse and two Holstein heifers, and raising broilers on her parent's farm in Newark.

Although FFA activities have taken her around the country to various workshops and conferences (including trips to Washington where she met Delaware's members of Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the last two U.S. Presidents), the Work Experience Abroad program will give her her first opportunity to travel outside the United States. Not wanting to stop there, she also hopes to spend a year in the Peace Corps in Africa before settling down to a career as a high school animals science teacher. She feels that the foreign experience will give her much to talk about in the classroom.

An extremely active person, Ms. Stafford spends several hours each day caring for her animals at her parent's farm. She also works part-time in a health food store in addition to her university work as an agriculture education and animal science major. Her advisor, Prof. R. Dean Shippy, says she is a very good student despite the heavy course load her double major entails.

Ms. Stafford's other activities have included membership in 4-H Explorers and Delaware



Jo Ann Stafford, Newark, the first Delaware FFA member chosen for work experience abroad, takes time to feed a pet raccoon on her parent's farm.

Business Clubs, and the Holstein Friesian Association. She also enjoys sports, particularly gymnastics.

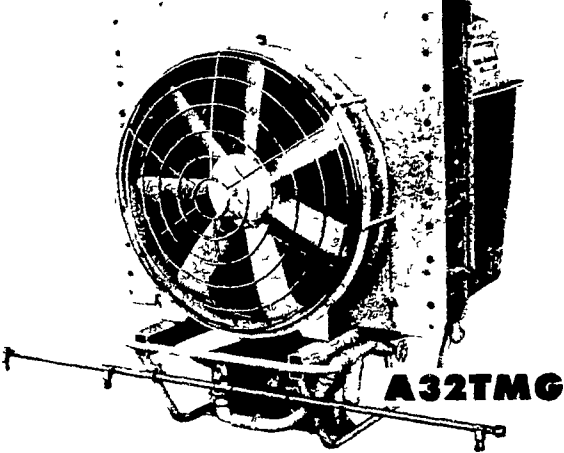
Ms. Stafford points out that when she first joined FFA in 1972, women had only been allowed to participate for three years and there were not many female members. Now, however, she says the female membership is about 35 per cent, but there are still many

parts of the country where women agriculture teachers are unheard of.

The former Delaware Dairy Princess says, "I've always worked and have the muscles to show for it. I've always liked working, having something to do, and feel I am healthy because of it. Some young people get into drugs because of boredom, but that's a problem I've never had."

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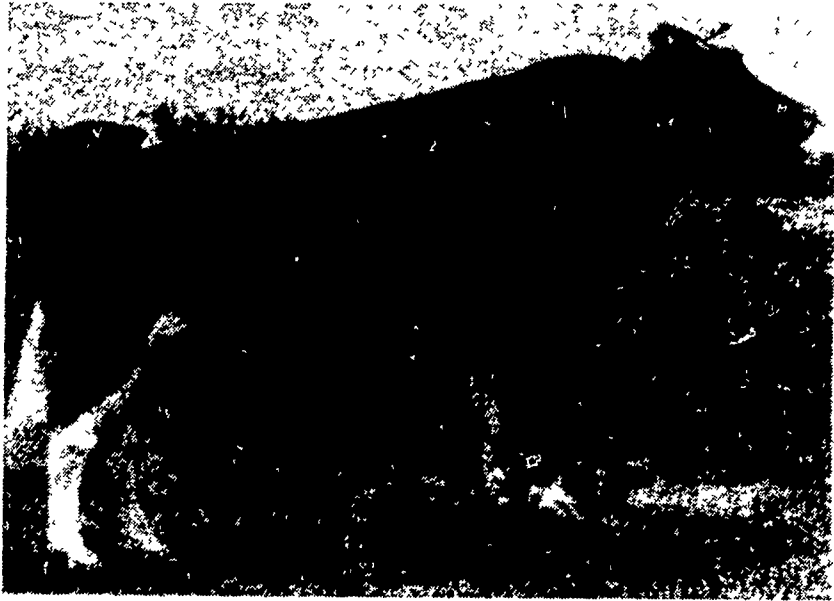
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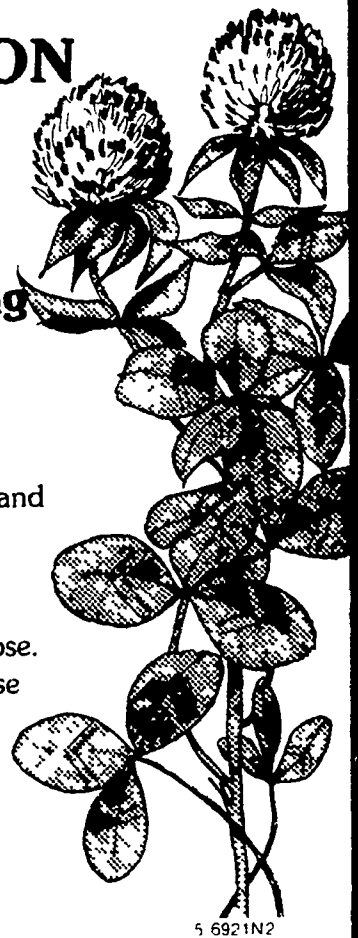
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