

Ag. student tries Israeli communal life



University of Delaware student Kim Aufdermarsh demonstrates her technique for making friends with a calf. It has proved effective on an Israeli Kibbutz and at the University of Delaware farm.

DOVER, Del. -- Agriculture students from nonfarm backgrounds sometimes have to search for an opportunity to practice what they've learned. For Kim Aufdermarsh that search led half-way around the world to an Israeli kibbutz, or communal farm.

Ms. Aufdermarsh, a University of Delaware senior from Newark, slipped into agriculture four years ago after a post-high school summer of employment at Delaware Park Racetrack. That experience intensified an old interest in horses, and by the end of the Summer she owned one of her own.

Under the circumstances, a course called "light horse science" seemed a natural choice for her freshman roster. One agriculture course led to another, and soon Ms. Aufdermarsh decided to major in both animal and plant science.

For Kim Aufdermarsh, a

Flea market and barbecue set for Montgomery Co.

NORRISTOWN -- A chicken barbeque and flea market will be held May 13 at the Montgomery County 4-H Center near Lansdale. The flea market will feature dealers and individuals from throughout the county and will run from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The chicken bar-b-que will be served from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Take-outs will be available. All proceeds to benefit the 4-H program.

— all without any exchange of money. She says it's a beautiful place, with a semi-tropical climate, marred only by echoes of distant gunfire and other signs of war. The kibbutz is located on a hillside two miles north of the Golan Heights, within two miles of both the Jordanian and Syrian borders.

According to Ms. Aufdermarsh, the agricultural practices of the kibbutz aren't very different from the ones she's learning about in Delaware. With the use of Western methods and plenty of irrigation, the kibbutz produces excellent yields of bananas, peanuts, grapefruits, oranges, avocados, dates, apples, and pears.

Additional revenue from

350 dairy cows and 10,000 roasting chickens bring finances slightly above the break-even point. Ms. Aufdermarsh was responsible for the care and feeding of newborn calves during her months as a volunteer.

As Ms. Aufdermarsh describes it, worktime on the kibbutz begins each day at six o'clock with a cup of coffee. A large breakfast follows at eight, and work continues just until noon. Six hours a day and six days a week are devoted to work, except during the frequent Jewish holidays.

To Kim Aufdermarsh, the kibbutz life means hard work among friendly people in a lovely environment. A stable job, a nice apartment, free meals and entertainment, excellent

education for the children, and even clothes on one's back are provided by the kibbutz, she says.

But the slow-paced lifestyle and lack of economic incentive made life too languid for the Delaware volunteer—except of course whenever low-flying warplanes were swooping overhead. (No one has ever been killed at Tel Katzir during wartime, she ex-

plains, but there have been frightening moments.)

After three months on a kibbutz, Kim Aufdermarsh was ready to go home. But for an agriculture student from Newark, Delaware, who didn't grow up around farming, Kibbutz Tel Katzir provided a unique opportunity to try out familiar agricultural practices in a fascinatingly foreign culture.

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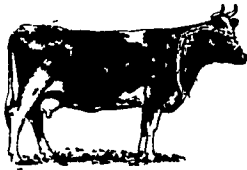
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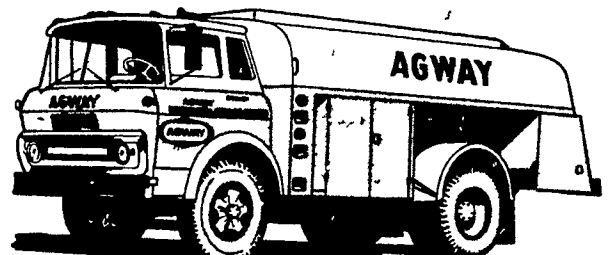
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