

# Brooke Palmer, accomplished 4-H queen

By JOYCE BUPP  
Staff Correspondent  
SHREWSBURY - She was chosen last October as York County's first 4-H Queen, a title earned through scholarship, participation and leadership skills gained through her club experience. Now, as she turns her crown over to her successor, another chapter of accomplishment in Brooke Palmer's impressive 4-H career will be ended.

At the age of eight, Brooke attended her first 4-H meeting, encouraged by her mother who had been impressed with what the 4-H program had to offer interested youths.

Food and clothing were the projects chosen for that first year. Although she continued with those two basic interests, the blonde 16-year-old, daughter of Glenn and Pat Palmer, Shrewsbury, has broadened her knowledge and skills through participation in a variety of clubs.

Foods preservation has headed the list as a favorite interest and earned Brooke a trip as a finalist in that field to the November 4-H Congress in Chicago. The Kerr Company, makers of home canning equipment, will sponsor her as she competes for one of the eight \$1000 national scholarships to be awarded in the foods preservation area.

But before she's off to Chicago, Brooke will give a dried foods demonstration at the National Junior Horticulture Association, an organization of 4-H gardening project members who will be meeting later this month.

When she first looked into the idea of drying food, Brooke discovered that there was no project book written on the subject. Undaunted, she set out to write her own program and created a demonstration for use in teaching others the techniques.

"Drying foods takes less time to prepare than canning and is cheaper than storing foods in a freezer," she has discovered. After building a rack from wood and wire, Brooke experimented with drying apples, onions, mint tea leaves and parsley.

Friendly and easy to talk with, Brooke credits 4-H with helping her learn to work with people.



Her family reaps the benefits of a home canning project which Brooke has studied. Together with her mother, Pat, the 4-H queen prepares fresh apples for home preservation.

"The best part has been meeting 4-H'ers and adults from all over the country," she smiles, adding that her hobby of writing to pen-pals has grown considerably through letters she exchanges with distant 4-H acquaintances.

As current president of the county's junior horticulture group and vice-president of county council, Brooke is using leadership skills that have been sharpened by holding every office in her local Shrewsbury Community club and several others within the county council also.

Along the way, she's captured a wall-full of awards, including recognition as a Keystone winner in home environment, food preservation, recreation and achievement, and selection as York County's Outstanding 4-H girl.

Using her 4-H background of several years, Brooke has moved into the position of teen leader. This past summer she worked with a home canning club of three girls, and is already planning what the group will do next year in their second unit.

But some of her warmest memories of 4-H result from

serving as a teen leader for the county's handicapped club.

"Working with those really terrific kids has been quite an experience," Brooke says. "They're planning to start it up again and I wouldn't miss helping."

A few years ago, in a quest for a project completely different from the home-oriented skills she's been perfecting, Brooke found herself, bow and arrow in hand, on the county's archery club team. Like every other project she tackled, Brooke did it well, capturing the high individual points award in 1976.

"I just decided it was something I wanted to do," she recalls. "Besides being a lot of fun, it taught us safety skills." The archery club became immediately popular and York's team has won several state championships since their beginning.

As the 4-H queen, Brooke has made appearances promoting 4-H involvement. Along with king Tim Beck, she appeared on Channel 8's "Noonday At Eight" program, and helped to narrate a fashion show during the 4-H Expo at the York Mall. The county's

royal pair also presided over the annual summer day camp at the 4-H Center and helped to plan it as teen agents. One speaking engagement took the queen

to the Thomasville Club Achievement Night program. Brooke's leadership abilities will be tapped in preparation for the statewide 4-H Leadership Congress, set for Penn State

next June. During this year's Congress, she was selected by a group of about 100 youth delegates to serve as an advisor for the 1979 program, geared to helping

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