

4-H winners are enthusiastic about 4-H involvement

By SALLY BAIR
Staff Writer

LANCASTER — Getting involved is more than just a convenient phrase for Sarah Brubaker and Jay Stauffer. Their involvement in 4-H has become a way of life, and their efforts in promoting 4-H were rewarded at the 4-H Leaders Recognition Banquet recently by being presented the "I Dare You" award for outstanding leadership.

Jay and Sarah are co-presidents of Lancaster County's 4-H County Council, and devote a large part of their time to 4-H and its many activities.

Sarah, 16, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Brubaker, Lancaster, and is in her seventh year as a member of the Red Rose Beef and Sheep Club. She is a firm believer in the virtues of belonging to 4-H and says, "I think it is the best thing for kids today. They can learn a lot." Sarah is song leader in the beef club and game leader for county council.

An enthusiastic beef and sheep show, Sarah has had many successes in her 4-H work throughout the years, and finds it difficult to pinpoint one thing as the biggest achievement. She has finished first and second in her class at the Farm Show with the steers, but said that being first in showmanship at the Chianina Field Day, a district competition, also meant a lot to her.

For three years in a row she had individual market lamb champion at Farm Show and in 1976 and 1977 she has had champion at the Eastern National Show.

In the past several years, Sarah has competed in several "Ladies Lead Line" competitions, something which she says is becoming more interesting to her. She explained, "The girls dress in 100 per cent wool for the major portion of their outfits, and then show a yearling ewe of any breed, which has been trained to be halter broken. The person is judged on poise, personality,



Jay enjoys his vegetable garden project with the Penn Manor Community Club. Here he works with the cauliflower, tying them up for blanching.

her outfit, the control of the ewe, cleanliness of the ewe and how they lend elegance to each other." Out of 27 girls at the Eastern National Show this year, Sarah placed third, of which she was quite proud.

Sarah's outfit was a pair of slacks with suspenders, made from wool, with a wool cap. She wrapped the ewe's halter with matching fabric, for an eye-catching appearance.

4-H is rewarding to Sarah because, "I enjoy meeting new kids and making new friends. I also like to learn about my project, and to learn to fit and show to the best of my ability."

Participating in state and national activities is an important part of any 4-Hers life, and Sarah is no exception. She has attended Leadership Congress, State Capitol Days, and participated in the National Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville last year. The national contest, Sarah says, was an excellent experience. "I met so many other kids. We traveled with the Virginia team and worked together. But we met kids from all over the country." About these extra activities Sarah says, "I feel they're good. It helps develop your leadership and deepens your involvement in 4-H. It's a lot of fun."

Sarah credits her older brother with her original involvement in 4-H, saying, "Ken was in 4-H and always had sheep, and I liked to help him. So I just got involved." She said she still appreciates all the help Ken gives her. Sarah is a teen leader for sheep and says, "I like learning and teaching other kids. When I found out how to do tails properly for showing, more and more kids came to me and asked how to do it. I think a big part of leadership is to show others how to do it. It gives me a lot of fulfillment to help younger members."

While she acknowledges that showing animals is a lot of work, Sarah adds, "I really enjoy the work involved. I mostly wash my steer and take it for walks, and I must run my market lamb and exercise it. As it gets closer to showtime I trim the sheep."

When asked if it bothered her to sell her projects, she answered truthfully, "Sometimes it does. This year's steer will be hard to sell. I like to take it for walks. It has a personality for me."

A junior at Hempfield High School, Sarah is photographer for the school paper, but most of her activities are sheep-related. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Sheep Association and the American Hampshire Sheep Association.

She enjoys riding her horse in her spare time and in the winter she goes ice skating. With money from her projects she purchased an organ for herself, but she said much of the money she earns is invested back into projects.

Sarah is a firm believer in the advantages of farm life. "I would never trade it never," she states emphatically. "A lot of kids tease me about being from a farm, but the way I look at it, I am more fortunate than others. When the have problems they may turn to drugs or alcohol, but I come home and work with my sheep or ride a horse."

As co-presidents of County Council, Jay and Sarah share an ambition to make the Council more active. "I think it helps to be a member of County Council, and we would like to get more members," Sarah says. In short order Sarah mentioned

several upcoming activities—Halloween party, roller skating, hockey game—which should interest 4-Hers but added, "We must do something to get the kids out. We should have at least 100 kids, but only get about 20."

Jay is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Stauffer, Lancaster. He is equally enthusiastic about the benefits of belonging to a 4-H Club. He said, "I would encourage anybody to join. It is so beneficial, because you are more or less on your own, but can turn to leaders to help you. What you put into it is what you get out of it."

Jay, 18, has been a member of the Penn Manor Community Club for six years, and this year joined the Red Rose Beef and Sheep Club. In the Penn Manor Club he has taken vegetable projects and bee keeping over the years, and has served as president, vice-president and treasurer.

Having attended 4-H State days, Capitol Days and Leadership Congress, Jay says, "These activities are a way of meeting people, and you can learn lessons through competition. You learn to win without boasting and to lose gracefully." I feel others should join 4-H, because it turns out to be so rewarding."

Jay says his most rewarding work in 4-H has been the "learning I've had. I was just master of ceremonies for a banquet which I couldn't have done without my 4-H experience. I've learned a lot through experience, and everything I've done all ties together to be helpful in real life."

While showing his steer is new to him, Jay says, "It has taught me a lot. I've learned a lot about showmanship, and about judging animals."

He said he enjoys his long walks with his animal, because, "I know the more I walk him the better I'll do."

His vegetable garden has been successful, and for two years he received reserve champion with his vegetable display at Achievement Day, only to be beaten out by his brother, Jim.

Jay said his parents encouraged him to join 4-H, and he was glad to have the opportunity to learn about agricultural projects.

This Summer Jim took time off from his 4-H duties

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Sarah believes each new baby needs some individual attention. Here she takes the time to feed the latest addition to the Brubaker flock.