Del. champion 4-H bull saved from slaughter

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NEWARK, Del. – It takes a long time and a lot of patience to raise a top caliber breeding bull. Before an animal can prove its genetic superiority, it must sire ten daughters which eventually grow up to be excellent milk producers. By that time most bulls have long since turned into

But 22-year-old Buddy Voss didn't want that fate to befall his pet bull Jo Boy. He'd raised the 3000-pound animal from its birth on his parents' dairy farm in Clayton. In fact, he'd even raised the bull's mother and grandmother from calves as

hamburgers.

Jo Boy's grandmother was Buddy Voss' first 4-H project. A gift from his father, the calf earned the shy ten-year-old his first ribbon. When that special cow finally died giving birth, Buddy saw to it that she was properly buried, not unceremoniously dumped somewhere.

Buddy has similar fond feelings toward Jo Boy, a gentle sort of bull who earned Buddy a number of 4-H ribbons as a teenager. Because of those feelings, Jo Boy is one bull you'll never sink your teeth into at the local hamburger emporium or steak house. Buddy didn't want Jo Boy to be eaten. He turned down offers from the local meat packer, choosing instead to breed the bull from time to time. All along he hoped-but never really knew-that the bull would prove his true worth when

the production figures were in for his daughters.

As it turned out, Jo Boy was worth the wait. Soon after the proof came in on Jo Boy, the Voss telephone started ringing off the wall. A leading stud firm in Ohio bought Jo Boy for a considerable sum of money. There he'll receive star treatment for the rest of his days.

Agriculture advances by passing on the best from one generation to the next. As Buddy groomed Jo Boy to pass on the best characteristics of his breed, he himself was groomed for

success in the agricultural life by the 4-H program. Buddy credits former 4-H county agent Dean Belt and former Delaware extension dairy specialist Dr. Wilbur Hesseltine for providing continuing support and encouragement. Through 4-H Buddy learned about dairy judging and showmanship. He also learned enough to persuade his parents to put their cows on DHIA test-a move they haven't ever regretted.

This was an outstanding year for Buddy Voss. In addition to the profitable bull sale, he also achieved a lifelong goal. He raised and showed this year's Delaware Grand Champion cow.

The 1974 Smyrna High graduate now farms fulltime with his father. Buddy has 25 animals of his own at this point, including 14 milking cows and one bull calf-which he definitely intends to keep.

Norman Voss is gradually preparing Buddy for partnership in the successful dairy operation he built up the hard way. Voss, Sr. worked 18 years at an auto assembly plant before he could switch to full-time farming.



Buddy Voss of Clayton, De. raised this champion bull from its birth as a 4-H project. He's now sold the animal to one of the nation's leading stud firms for a handsome profit.

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