

State FFA poultry judging champion

Karen Long prepares for the local fair season

By DEBRA STRICKLER
WILLOW STREET—This past summer Karen Long, a Penn Manor High School sophomore, had quite an achievement. She broke a 40 year record at the State Poultry Judging Contest, sponsored by agricultural education teachers in cooperation with the Penn State Department of Poultry Science.

This is one of the most comprehensive contests in

the nation, according to Herbert C. Jordan, Extension specialist in poultry science at Penn State. In order to break the record, Karen earned a 91.7 per cent total composite score judging nine classes of poultry and eggs plus giving near perfect oral reasons on a class of four laying hens.

She competed with 43 other students in judging exterior shell eggs, as well as interior quality of broken

out eggs. Each competitor candled eggs, and judged a class of leghorn pullets and a class of hens for egg production. Ten poultry ailments were identified by each student and a class of pullets and one of layers was judged on a keep or cull basis.

Karen does not live on a poultry farm; therefore, a great deal of studying was needed to prepare her for the competition. She studied various poultry texts and practiced at area poultry farms. A county competition was held at Weaver's of New Holland in which Karen placed ninth. She then went on to beat the county competitors at the state contest.

As the Pennsylvania's highest scoring individual, Karen is looking forward to attending the National FFA Convention at Kansas City in November. In the meantime, Karen is quite busy preparing for the West Lampeter Community Fair.

Although she will not have to judge poultry at the fair, she will be kept busy preparing her animals for livestock contests.

Karen lives on a 20 acre farm south of Willow Street, and has occupied the barn and meadow with her swine, sheep, and Ayrshire calf, all of which are FFA projects.

Her interest in animals and FFA began in the sixth grade at Marticville Middle School when Karen decided to join the Junior FFA Club

during an activity period. She convinced her father to purchase a hog for a project. Since the seventh grade,

Karen has entered her hogs in the West Lampeter Fair. This past year she competed in the Lancaster County

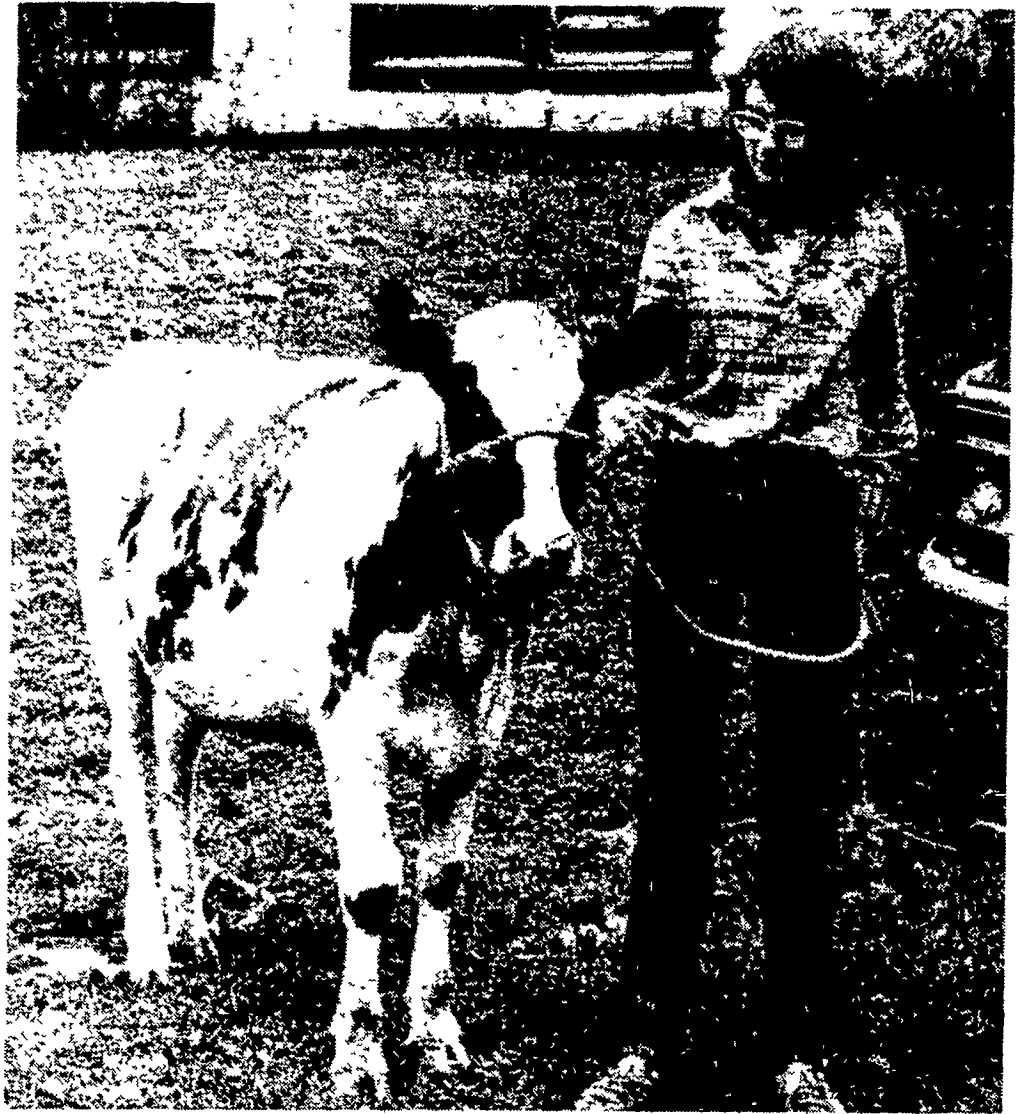
FFA hog show.

Through her achievements with the hog project and her

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Holding a racing pigeon in Rentavin Loft, Karen enjoys explaining the techniques of pigeon racing.



Karen Long received an Ayrshire calf as a chain animal to help begin another FFA project. She is looking forward to showing "Annie" at the community fairs.

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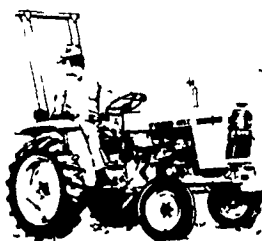
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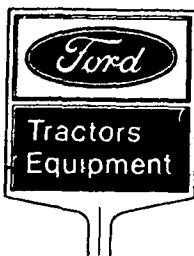
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