

## New Lancaster County FFA officers

### Dairy princess

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Another new approach for this promotion-minded Dairy Princess was to distribute milk and cheese at the South Mountain Fair during the evening of the dairy shows. Chrissy said, "I got a lot of good comments and we had a good crowd. But it was very hectic to show and give out ribbons and pass out milk and cheese."

Chrissy's parents farm about 200 acres and have a herd of 70 cows, with 30 milking. Chrissy owns 16 animals herself, which stem from her 4-H involvement. She is very much interested in the farm work, and while she prefers milking, she was in the hay field on the day of this interview. She plans to spend her summer working on the farm.

Chrissy is a sophomore majoring in dairy science at Virginia Tech, and has more than a passing knowledge of good cows. She is firm in her commitment, "My goal is to breed my own herd. It is so rewarding to breed a good cow to show. I am trying to develop a good breeding program with my father. We discuss it."

While she has been trying to build up her herd over the last few years, she makes no bones about the fact that she ultimately would like to merchandise her animals. In fact, she is presently trying to sell a bull. "I have sold calves, but haven't yet sold animals in a major way." With merchandising in mind, she says she selects bulls on the basis of popularity, predicted difference and milk. "You have to breed what you can sell," she states.

Of course, the selling may not come easy. Chrissy's affection for her animals show up when she says, "Once I get my herd built up, I will try to part with them."

Showing is important to Chrissy. She explains, "I like meeting people and I have met more people that way than any other. It is also good for promotion and merchandising."

She has been showing in 4-H for ten years, but her introduction to 4-H was not smooth. As her first heifer, her father gave her a senior yearling calf when she was nine years old. "We had a bad year and we sold her," Chrissy recalls. Then he gave her a February calf

with Chrissy raised to a two-year-old. The first calf was a bull, but the cow had a beautiful udder until it was time to milk and then it was discovered that she milked in only three teats. Chrissy remembers clearly, "I cried. She didn't milk but I convinced Dad to keep her. When she had her second bull calf I was totally frustrated."

It was then that her father suggested they buy a cow named Nellie whom they had boarded at one time. Chrissy says, "I hated her. But she was my 4-H project and I took her to the Maryland State Fair and she stood in last place." She improved, however, and the following year stood second. "I grew very fond of her," Chrissy states. "All my cow families start from her. She redeemed herself by going on to become All-Pennsylvania and Grand Champion at the Farm Show. She is classified 2E."

Chrissy has become very involved in the Dairy Science Club at Virginia Tech, and at their little All-American this Spring, she placed second in fitting and showing. The student who beat her went on to become overall grand champion fitter and showman. "I had a grade heifer who was a little fat. It was a good experience to get to know people. You do all the feeding for two weeks prior to the contest and you get to know everyone," she said.

Putting her promotional ability to use, Chrissy also volunteered to be a tour guide for farm tours at Tech, something she has found rewarding.

A good judge of cows, Chrissy placed first in the state as a member of the Adams County 4-H judging team. On the state team which traveled to Madison, Wisconsin, she was 15th in the nation. "Judging teaches you to use the right word at the right time. I would like to try to judge on Virginia Tech's judging team but it's not like being on the 4-H team," she puts forth.

As a prelude to working out for the team, Chrissy participated in a 4-H and FFA judging clinic where she served as coach for four individuals. "I could see them improving. It was an education for me."

Chrissy was also on the Adams County Dairy Bowl



New Red Rose Future Farmers of America officers from Lancaster County for the 1980-81 year held their initial organizational meeting Tuesday at Garden Spot High School, New Holland. From the left, they include Lisa Russel, county princess, Eastern Lancaster County; Kervin Miller, standing in for Student Advisor Mike Hess, Manheim Central; Gerald Garber, Parliamentarian, Lampeter-Strasburg; Steve Spayd, Chaplain, Willow

Street; Doug Hershberger, Vice President, Solanco; Jay Garber, Sentinel, Elizabethtown; Barbara Herr, President, Eastern Lancaster County; Kevin Devine, Treasurer, Eastern Lancaster County; Barry Geib, Secretary, Manheim Central; and James C. Fink, Vocational Agriculture Education Supervisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education. Missing from the photo is Darrell Dombach, Reporter, Lampeter Strasburg.

team which placed second the first time they judged at the state and won the contest the following year.

A 1979 graduate of Littlestown High School, Chrissy represented the County once before, as the 1978 Adams County Junior Miss. She calls the program "wonderful," adding, "It is not a beauty contest, but a scholarship pageant. It taught me to get up in front of a group. They were in-

terested in all aspects - physical fitness, poise and appearance, grades and talent." Chrissy's talent was singing, which she has successfully utilized to promote milk during her reign.

Chrissy admits that when she was younger she was not interested in anything but cows. In fact, it may seem strange to some, but Chrissy relates, "When I was at school, I missed the cows."

She said her phone conversations with her parents centered around which cow freshened and how much milk her animals were giving. She added that her parents supported her wholeheartedly during her reign, saying, "My Mom did so much help. She was a gem."

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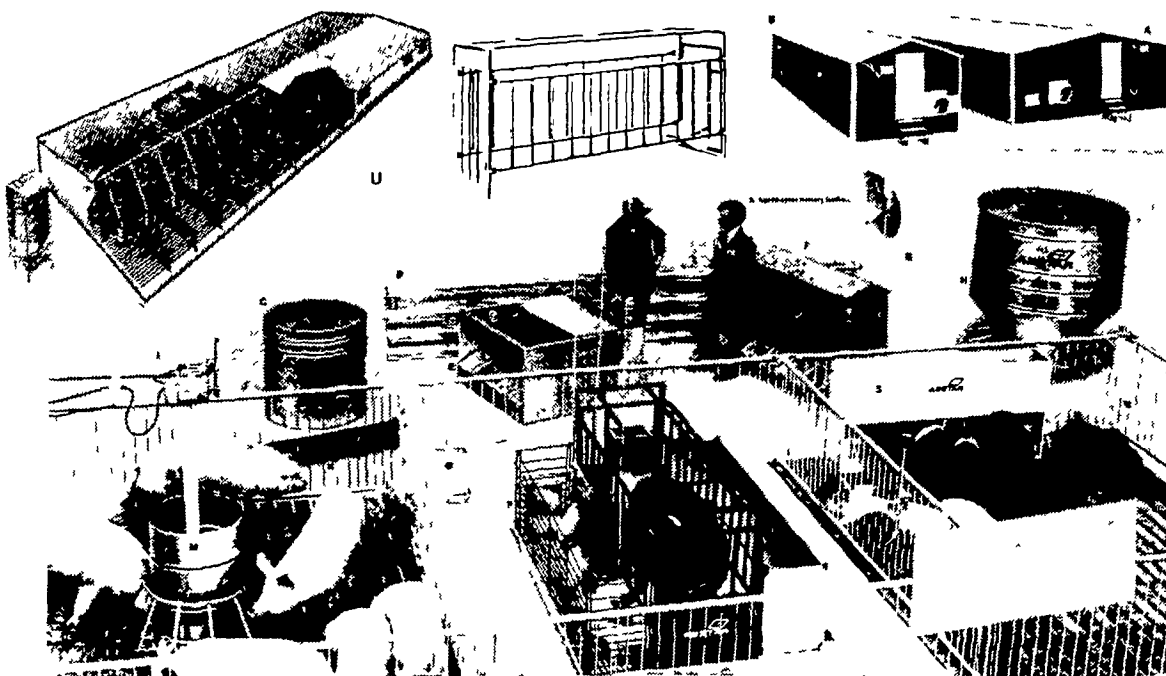
in milk. Milk tastes great - it's refreshing and it's easy to see why milk's the one."

She makes it clear that being Dairy Princess hasn't changed the way she is or will continue to be. "Before I was crowned, I was promoting milk and it won't end. I will continue to promote milk."



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