



Dorrie keeps a close tab on the supplies in her truck. Her Chevy Luv has become familiar to farmers in the southern end of Lancaster County.

## Dorrie Diggs, large animal vet, practices patience

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It has long been a common practice for women to be taking an active part in many of the roles on the farm. Recently, however, these roles have also included previously totally male professions. For almost two years, there has been a female large animal veterinarian buzzing over the roads in Southern Lancaster County on her way to attend a milk fever case, a difficult calving or to perform a routine vaccination or dehorning. LANCASTER FARMING checked with this spunky lady to see if she could share some of her experiences as a large animal vet.

Dorrie Diggs is a twenty-seven year old, curly-haired strawberry blonde who works as an associate vet for Pennstar Veterinary Service owned by Carl G. Troop. She is one of two associates working with Troop in the

Quarryville area business. Dorrie came to work for Troop in November of 1978 after four months' experience in a large and small animal veterinary establishment in Bucks County. How she finally arrived in the heart of the Dutch Country is an interesting subject. With characteristic energy and humility, Dorrie related how she chose to be a large animal vet.

When she was small, Dorrie grew up in suburban Philadelphia. Occasionally, she said, she would be lucky enough to be invited along with a neighbor playmate to visit a relative's farm in the Summer. She said she loved being on the farm these few times. When she was not yet a teenager, her family moved to Cecil County, Maryland, but she said she was still not any closer to the farming community than when she lived in the Philadelphia suburbs. She had no farm-background friends in school and thus had no real access to a farm.

When she had completed high school she studied at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, as an art major. She was especially interested in being a professional cartoonist. But she found that she might not like the pressure of deadlines for coming up with specific ideas which a successful cartoonist would have to constantly deal with. So she took some time to analyze her potentials and her interests and decided that since she was doing well in biology and science courses and always had liked being out of doors and interested in cows, she decided to transfer to Penn State.

After her first year at Penn State she applied to the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Georgia in veterinary science. She was accepted to both. Because the labs are closer to the living quarters at the University

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The last of the sugar peas are the target for Dorrie here. She enjoys tending her garden when she's off duty.

## Homestead Notes



Here Dorrie checks one of Bill Arrowsmith's Jerseys. She prepared for her work as a large animal vet by building up her muscles and physical stamina.