

Meet Lancaster County's Junior 4-H Queen

Renee Haldeman — proud to be a 4-H'er

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent

Thirteen-year-old Renee Haldeman's pride is being a 4-H'er bubbles forth as she talks, making her a natural to serve as Lancaster County's Junior 4-H Queen. Her enthusiasm is complete and she is articulate in expressing some of the advantages 4-H offers.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barry Haldeman, R3 Manheim, Renee said she will try to go out and tell people that 4-H is a lot of fun. "It is not just for country folks, and there is so much to choose from that there is surely something for everyone. I hope a friendly 'hi' will win them over."

If the friendly greeting doesn't work, then speaking about the benefits 4-H has brought to Renee is sure to win new members.

"One of the greatest things for me in 4-H," Renee states, "is getting to know others better, and being able to see others' views." She said she also gains satisfaction from successfully completing her projects, adding, "I know the joy of winning and the sadness of losing. Even if you don't win, you get personal satisfaction. If I have to tear out a seam, in the end I'm glad I did. I always feel proud when I say 'I made this.'"

While some people may decry the amount of competition in 4-H, Renee feels it is an important aspect of the total program. She says, "I think competition is good - it makes you always do your best. 4-H is a fun group of kids together and it even brings out the competition within the club. I strongly feel this is for everybody. Even parents should be involved. 4-H helps parents see what their kids can do." And what their kids can do is almost anything, according to Renee. "It's not just cooking and sewing. 4-H accepts everyone and there's a project for everyone."

A member of the Elm-Penryn Community Club, Renee had projects this year in guinea pigs, international cooking, crafts and sewing. She enjoyed each one and said she could not choose a favorite. She also did well in all of them, placing among the top ten junior winners at county fashion revue, and having the reserve-champion guinea pig at Achievement Day.

When asked how a Queen can benefit the 4-H program, Renee says, "4-H needs something special to tell what it's about. The contest is something to look forward to and it brings a lot of people to Achievement Day." As 4-H Queen, Renee has already appeared on television to promote the 4-H program. "That was a new experience for me and I hope to get a lot of new experiences," she stated.

Renee has been active for several years in demonstration contests. She got blue ribbons for her first two years' participation and was able to represent Lancaster County at the regional contest. This year, as a senior demonstrator, she won at the county contest and at regional got a gold ribbon, which is the highest honor. Her demonstration was about metrics, explaining the system and making cookies and punch with those measurements.

It's experiences like that Renee says, that help 4-H'ers in school too "It helps you learn to write things down, take pictures and keep records."

Renee recalls that she originally joined 4-H because of her mother's interest and because she had some friends who joined. Her mother is a sewing leader with the club. Her interest in guinea pigs, however, stems from her sister Denise's decision to have a rabbit project. Her family, looking for something unusual and different, had gone into the rabbit business, beginning with 20 mothers and expanded to 1200.

Renee decided she would raise guinea pigs as a project, and sell them to a neighbor for profit. She thinks it's a great project because they are simple to care for, but make pleasant pets. Renee said she only allows herself to

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Obviously fond of farm animals, Renee Haldeman plays with her pet goat, Buttons, in the back yard of their Manheim R3 farm. Renee was chosen Lancaster County's Junior 4-H Queen at 4-H Achievement Days.



Having taken a whole realm of 4-H activities, Pam has many projects such as the macrame owl and wall decoration to look back on with pride.



Meet Lancaster County's Senior 4-H Queen

Pam Goss — goes all out for 4-H

BY PAT KAUFFMAN

Pam Goss, Lancaster County's newly crowned Senior 4-H Queen is an outdoor girl. From raising a few animals to snow tubing, her interests frequently are in the great outdoors.

Pam's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Goss, R1 Pequea are organizational leaders of the Penn-Willow 4-H Club.

For 9 of her 17 years, Pam has been active in the 4-H program taking projects ranging anywhere from crafts, cooking, sewing and cake decorating to forestry, wildlife, handyman and strawberries.

While Pam is an active thespian, having participated in theater activities and numerous plays during her years at Penn Manor High School, her enthusiasm for 4-H work is no act.

While Pam is presently employed in a desk job as secretary at Penn Manor High School and while she enjoys her work and expects to continue in the secretarial field, she also entertains dreams of someday living on a farm.

Several of Pam's relatives live on Lancaster County dairy farms, and she recalls her experiences spending

Summer days there with a certain wistfulness. When asked what she especially likes about the farm, she said without hesitation, the cows.

Pam's family lives on an acre which is bordered by a Martic Township dairy farm, and while Pam sees cows daily in the summer from her back yard, it apparently isn't quite enough. She says she has several times considered carrying a dairy project in her 4-H work.

Pam and her family keep a small flock of sheep which

ranges anywhere from 3-8 animals. A few chickens of mixed breeding, and roosters to match, strut around the gardens and trees in the back lawn.

Pam likes to travel and would like to visit a foreign exchange student from the Netherlands she met at Penn Manor High School. This summer she and her family visited Canada and Chincoteague.

Pam thoroughly enjoys spending time tenting and canoeing with her family, as well as tubing on the Pequea Creek. Roller skating, which she says she's fairly good at and playing the piano occasionally help to fill her already busy hours.

Pam who's an avid mystery reader says she also tried out for the talent competition at this year's Achievement Days, and while she expected to be chosen in the finalists in talent and not in the queen competition, fate had things the other way around.

This year Pam hopes to try some deer hunting, something new to her. She developed an interest in it at the Lancaster County Conservation Camp which she attended as part of her 4-H activities last year.

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Homestead Notes