

Winning calf is dream-come-true for 4-H'er



It's love at first sight as Debbie gets acquainted with her first prize calf, while Mike Firestine, Mrs. Elwood Ohlinger and daughter Connie look on. The heifer, purchased by LVNB at the Berks 4-H Center Dairy Calf Sale, was the first brown bovine to live in traditionally black-and-white Ohlinger barn

BY SHEILA MILLER
MOHRSVILLE — Tuesday was a day fifteen-year-old Debbie Price will long remember — one of her dreams turned into reality as the youngster, originally from Long Island, set eyes on her first dairy heifer.

The tenth grader at Daniel Boone High School, through her writing talents, won first place in Lebanon Valley National Bank's essay contest. Her prize was a registered Guernsey calf the bank purchased in December at the Berks County Dairy Sale, a fund raising event for the planned 4-H Center

Twelve other Berks County 4-H'ers entered the contest, writing compositions on "Why I Would Like to be a Good Dairy Farmer"

"I couldn't believe I won her," confessed Debbie when she arrived at the Elwood Ohlinger farm at R1 Mohrsville. The Ohlingers cared for the heifer while the contest was going on. She

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Debbie, who says she would like to be a large animal vet someday, has had experience in the dairy business before winning her Guernsey heifer. However, her milkers are dairy goats — she has ten in all

WHY I WOULD LIKE TO BE A DAIRY FARMER

BY DEBBIE PRICE

I would like to be a dairy farmer because the experience would be a great asset to me in the field I would like to pursue. I would like to become a large animal veterinarian.

Since I would deal mainly with cows, horses, goats, sheep and pigs, being a dairy farmer would help me be better able to help other dairy farmers with the health problems they may face.

Being a dairy farmer would mean breeding, feeding and managing dairy animals. If a dairy farmer then had a problem that had to do with the kind of feed he was feeding his herd, I could help him better than someone who never raised a cow or faced the problem.

If he was managing his herd improperly and I knew from past experience how to correct it, that would make me a much better vet than the person who never had the experience of managing a dairy herd.

If a farmer wanted to know which bull to breed to his cow so he would have bigger, healthier calves, I could tell him. Whereas, the vet who never raised and bred cows would not know what to tell him.

The experience of being a dairy farmer would be an asset because I could then meet other people who share a common interest — cows. I also would gain responsibility by having to care for a calf. I would be responsible for that animal's life.

People learn from their experiences. And being a dairy farmer would mean knowledge I could use every day of my life.



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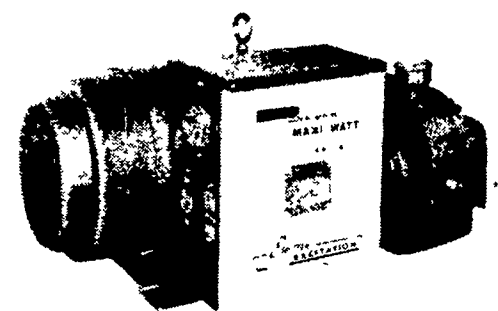


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