

## FFA's first lady

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considers her own. Her dad's done some amount of training with "Johnny" for calf roping, since rodeo competition is one of the Walter family's hobbies.

Riding a horse that the family had acquired from Alabama, Brenda has tried her hand at rodeo barrel racing, and still entertains thoughts of improving her skill at this high-speed sport.

She's also begun dabbling in another rodeo event, goat tying. That's an event for female competitors, performed similarly to calf tying but with a lighter weight and less dangerous animal at the end of the rope.

"We have one goat here at home that I've tried catching for practice tying, but he's a big baby, and as soon as I rope him, he just lays there and cries," she laughs.

The goats are the specialty of Brenda's mother, who's one of York County's DHIA testers. But Brenda's expertise in handling

animals is sometimes called on to assist with the growing herd of milking nannies.

"I'm on maternity watch when the goats are kidding," she affirms. "We have 18, with two more to go. I can milk them, but Mom usually takes care of that."

She also lends a hand wherever needed around the general farm, helping with the field crops of hay, corn and small grains, assists with the garden, cooking and household chores and doing various jobs looking after the best breeding herd, which includes 26 Angus cows.

Brenda's own breeding stock includes four Simmental cows and two heifers, and an Angus cow and heifer. Her show string for the upcoming season lists a yearling Angus that recently placed eleventh in a class of twenty at the Nashville National Junior Angus Show, as well as two steers. The steers, one a Chinina-Shorthorn and one Simmental cross, are

being trained for FFA competition.

Now that she's "outgrown" 4-H age requirements, Brenda's moved up to leadership roles. She worked for 18 months with the York County extension program and is a leader with the beef club and an assistant coach for the livestock judging team.

One of the county's newest clubs, and a very special one to Brenda, is the Handicapped Horse Club, organized by leader Ann Wagner with the help of the York Easter Seal Society. Brenda has been lending a hand teaching the fledgling club and finds the four members especially appreciative and quick to learn.

Looking beyond the immediate future and her year wearing the crown and banner of the state FFA princess, Brenda eyes a definite goal that she's set for herself. It's her dream to manage a top beef show herd, or even better, to

operate her own beef farm. And she's already told the family how she'd like to tie that dream to the Walter's home farm.

"I don't ever want to leave

here," she says of the rolling hills on the plateau high above the Susquehanna River. "I keep telling them I'm just gonna' stay here until I inherit it."

## Try peaches

UNIVERSITY PARK, Md — The best way to celebrate "National Peach Month" is to bite into a tasty, juicy, fresh peach and enjoy the supreme summer tree fruit all by yourself.

Perhaps an even better way of doing this would be to go out into one of the state's pick your own peach orchards and harvest peaches right off the tree.

While there is some concern over supplies of peaches in the stores this year, Maryland's crop is looking reasonably good and is just now beginning to show up in markets, at roadside stands, and is there waiting for you to pick it

yourself.

Maryland's peach crop, which includes a variety of early, mid-season, and late season peaches, runs from 15 to 22 million pounds per year and reaches market during July, August and September.

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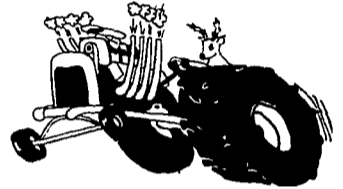
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