

Cinda Oakes

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"You look at what is winning and try to breed to achieve that. You learn a lot if you observe." She chooses bulls for the animals she owns, but selects on the basis of what is best for the individual cows.

Taking time off from school to attend cow shows was never a problem for Cinda over the years because her country school was very understanding. She added, "Some girls couldn't understand

how I could like showing, but they enjoy my coming home and telling my experiences."

An integral part of the farm, Cinda says she enjoys milking but is basically an "all-around person." She keeps the herd records and remarked that she'd have to get home and get caught up. The herd average is 17,000 pounds of milk and over 625 pounds of butterfat.

Her finger was broken when a heifer bolted and the halter strap

wrapped around her ring finger, causing the break.

The Oakes family was able to attend the All-American show this week as a family because of the good help of Ernest's sister and a neighbor who did the milking chores for the week.

In preparing their cattle for shows, Cinda says they bring the show animals in from pasture at the end of June and break them to lead. "You have to start working ahead, and then it's easier." She usually helps with the clipping, but her cast prevented her from doing as much as she often does.

She said they get into a routine by showing at the community fair and the county fair. When showing, they add beet pulp to their normal ration of grain, hay and water.

This year Cinda said she intended to show her 4-H animals at the championship show. But as she was driving the animals there late at night, she got two flat tires. Because of the lateness, and after a second tire was brought, she returned home and did not show. At the 4-H district show she and her brother showed six animals and five were eligible to go to the Junior Dairy Show. They had three firsts as well as junior champion.

When promoting milk as a Dairy Princess, Cinda says she has "no real set thing." I like to use my skit on younger children. I dress up like a cow and talk about milk." She



Cinda and her father relax on a bale near their show animals, with brother Ernie Ray standing behind them.

says she'd like to talk to a lot of school children during her reign. "They are the ones who need to be worked on. They are our future."

Cinda said she had a feeling she might do well with her animals this year. "They looked good to me and they were the quality I like to have.

It turned out to be a pretty good year even with all the accidents. I wasn't sure at the beginning."

For Cinda, the showing season has brought a lot of hard work, but the thrill of success. She comments, "It took me nine years to do this."

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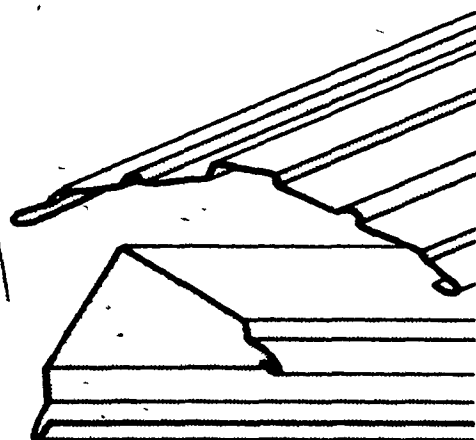
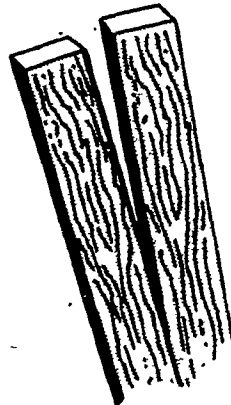
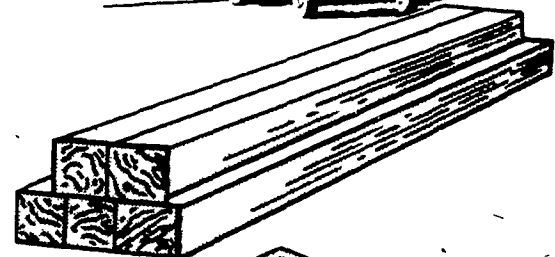
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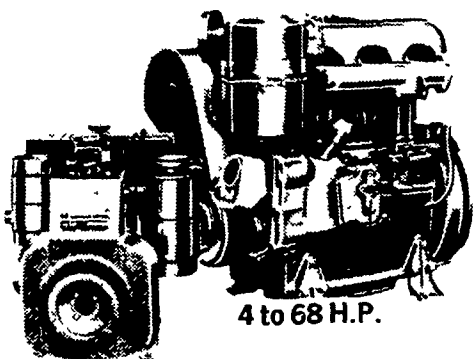
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