

Girls scoop Keystone Degrees

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grade, when she joined the Junior FFA club. Returning to the same club in eighth grade, Barb was urged by the school's vo-ag teachers to select the ag program as her major course for the next four years.

Although her projects included her Arabian horse, gardening and field crops, dairying related studies remained foremost in her interest.

"When I was a junior, I really began to develop a serious interest in dairy farming," she relates. And, after graduation in 1980, Barb opted to go to work full time at home for her parents on the family dairying operation.

As herdsman, Barb works primarily with the cows, although she'll lend a hand with the field work in peak busy seasons. In addition to helping with the milking and feeding chores, she's in charge of calf raising, registration, maintaining herd health and breeding records, and is beginning to take a deep interest in sire selection, especially since the herd had been classified and evaluated recently.

Barb's own herd now totals 15 mature cows of the family's 45 head of registered Holstein milkers. Personal favorite of Barb's four-legged holdings is "Boots," a 5-year-old Bootmaker daughter, and one of her FFA animals for many years.

"She won me my first grand championship award," says Barb in explaining her soft spot for Boots.

Winning awards is not new to this pleasant and knowledgeable young FFA woman. She's toted home a raft of honors with her dairy animals, in both FFA and 4-H showings. And besides the type trophies, Barb's made a considerable dent in the area showing and fitting competitions, and has at least ten fitting awards scattered around the spacious Kilgore farm home, plus numerous showmanship trophies.

"I've always especially enjoyed the FFA shows," she says. "because the whole Red Lion group would attend together. We'd travel together, eat out together, and help each other."

While her 4-H career closed out as of the last day of 1981, Barb still has two more years of FFA showing left to anticipate.

Her Keystone award will be the latest in a string of FFA degrees and recognition. She won her first FFA trophy back in the eighth grade club, with a dairy proficiency project. A chapter greenhand degree came as a freshman and during her sophomore year, Barb added the chapter-farmer degree. Her dairy judging knowledge earned her a gold medal in state FFA competition, and she was a member of the county's 4-H second place state dairy judging team in 1980.

In April, Barb and former vo-ag classmate Melvin Marks will be married, and plan to settle on the

Kilgore farm to continue helping to operate the herd.

"We expect to keep showing cattle," adds Barb, "and someday hope to have our own dairy farm."

Fran Lewis

Not far out the road from the Kilgore farm, another of Red Lion's Keystone winners is busy at work in her agri-business job.

Fran Lewis is the "parts girl" at Airville Farm Supply. It's a position she landed through the vo-ag work-study program, attending classes during her senior year through the morning hours, and learning the equipment parts business in the afternoon. When she graduated, Fran got the spot behind the parts desk full time.

"Learning all the parts was the hardest part," remembers Fran of those early days on the job. "I really like meeting the people, though."

Most customers, says Fran, are patient and understanding if the parts they need are out of stock, or on order.

An FFA'er for all four of her high school years, Fran grew up on the R2 Felton farm of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lewis. The

Lewis family maintains a flock of commercial Dorset breeding sheep, about 30 head plus lambs.

Fran's FFA projects mirrored the family sheep interest. She carried sheep breeding and finishing, plus beef finishing, and presently owns four sheep and two Hereford brood cows.

In addition to her greenhand and chapter farmer degrees, Fran earned honors in the area of sheep production, and an agri-business award. She was also a member of the FFA parliamentary procedure team.

With no immediate plans for a career change, Fran says she likes the parts business, and plans to stay with Airville Farm Supply for awhile.

Melissa Peters

Although she wasn't raised on a farm, Melissa Peters turned her love of animals into a successful FFA career.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horton Peters, Stewartstown, Melissa credits her Maryland cousins in the FFA program for first stirring her interest in vocational agriculture.

Now a senior at Red Lion,

Melissa projects first focused on poultry since the family did not live on a farm, and her space for livestock was limited. Raising chickens and pheasants held her interest until the family moved onto a larger place about a year ago. Then her real preference, hog breeding and production, found an outlet.

Focusing on hog production, Melissa now owns four purebred sows, two Berkshire, and one each of Duroc and Spotted breeds, plus a Spotted purebred boar. She also feeds out 30 market hogs.

Although 1981 was her first venture into area hog show arenas, Melissa copped a number of honors, including the champion FFA Spotted Hog at the York Fair. Her poultry exhibits, including Dominicks and Blue Andalusian chickens, also placed well in competition.

Melissa has earned her White Rose county degree, in addition to the local chapter degrees, and is currently the Red Lion chapter reporter. She's competed in a variety of areas, including agronomy and job interview, took

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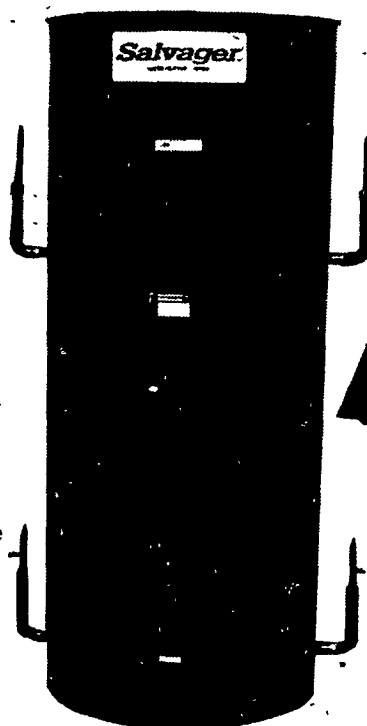
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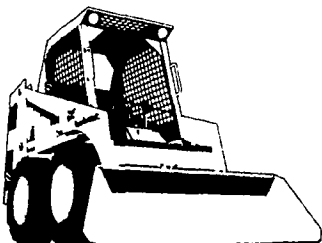
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