

Show ribbons inspire quilt

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productive." She feels her rolling hills are ideally suited for a grazing ruminant, although they have found that the soil is extremely deficient in molybdenum, so they supplement that.

One big reason for getting sheep, Annette says, "I could handle them." She then recalls some advice about getting sheep, "Don't get more sheep than your wife can handle."

She points out, "There are seasons where you are very busy, but it is not as confining nor demanding as dairying."

The Menhennets grow corn and alfalfa, and Annette says, "Haymaking is usually my project. I cut and condition the hay and bale it and I get a crew to bring it in."

Their first sheep were purchased in 1967, and they have made great strides since then. Annette keeps "very extensive records on loin eye, back fat and rate of gain" to use as a selection tool. "We have tried to be scientific in our method of selection and we have made good progress."

While she shows extensively, Annette says candidly, "I have serious doubts about the validity of shows. The criteria used there is

not what's important to the sheep industry. The challenge of the purebred is not in winning in the show ring, but in gaining genetic improvement." Nevertheless, she does plan to continue showing because she feels its important for a seller of purebred stock to participate.

Annette markets her wool directly to a wool broker, primarily because she shears in the fall instead of the more traditional springtime shearing. "The sheep take less room in the barn and they are cleaner," she says.

Studies show that lambs from sheared ewes are heavier and more vigorous at birth, and Annette says, "I think that's true." Part of the reason is the metabolism of the sheep, who tend to eat more when sheared in the fall.

Asked about difficulty of birthing, Annette says, "We select away from birthing difficulties very scrupulously."

The Menhennets eat a lot of lamb, but Annette says, "I'd like to eat a lot more." She said she often saves two or three lambs for their personal use but ends up selling one to someone else.

About lamb, she says, "It is flavorful, different in taste and a

nice change from beef and pork." She points out that it is supposed to be lowest in cholesterol among red meats.

Basically sheep growers are not fulfilling the demands for lamb, and much lamb purchased is imported from New Zealand. "We don't produce enough lamb. Studies show the potential for the demand is there, but the supply does not exist, especially in this area. The sheep industry is con-

stantly being criticized by packers for not having a steady supply of meat."

While a housewife may look at a big leg of lamb and say it is too big for her family, Annette says the sirloin end can be cut into steaks for broiling and the other end will make a roast just right for 3-4 people.

Annette is equally enthusiastic about her other product - wool. "It can be a marvelous fabric in hot

weather. It breathes and absorbs moisture." But she's no purist, saying, "It's nice to think of using polyester and wool blends, because of its washing ability." And she points out that new methods of treatment are now making 100 percent wool washable.

Sheep are Annette's livelihood, and she will always promote and use all their products - from the wool and meat to the ribbons they win for her in the show ring.



This quilt is made entirely of show ribbons won by Mrs. Warn Menhennet over the years of showing her registered Shropshire sheep. Annette stitched the entire quilt by hand, designing as she went to combine colors and

sizes in a pleasing design. The ribbons are stitched so that the year and the place of the show are displayed. She used wool batting and wool yarn for the ties.

Danger down on the farm

LANCASTER — Thousands of farm tractors in Pennsylvania are in the fields for the massive task of planting crops.

A few suggestions offered by the Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are:

— Keep children off and away from farm machinery.

— Thoroughly train young operators. Supervise them until you feel they are competent and will operate safely.

— Discourage young operators from horseplay, showing off and "hot rodding" the equipment. Don't let them take buddies along for the ride.

— Permit only qualified operators to drive equipment on

highways. The operator must know and obey traffic laws and respond correctly in an emergency.

— Older persons should operate equipment with extra care to compensate for slowed reaction time, poor vision and less energy.

— Avoid operating when ill, very tired, or taking strong medicants that alter alertness.

— Take occasional work and refreshment breaks to fight fatigue.

— Consider equipping the tractor with a comfortable protective cab. If you choose not to invest in a cab, a basic protective frame along with a buckled seat belt will help prevent serious injury in case of a side or backward flip.



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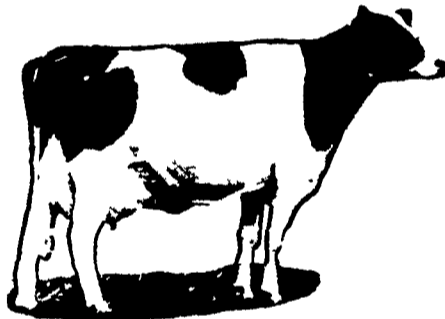
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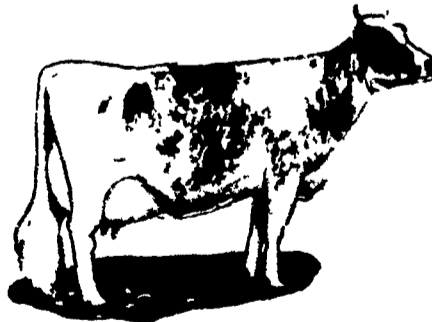
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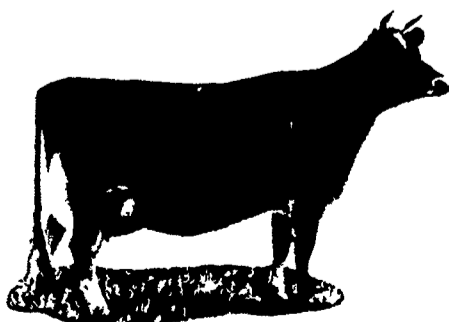


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