

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Do other farmer's wives have an influx of mice in the fall? Other years I'd catch a few in traps and that would be the end of the problem. However, this year there seems to be no end to the little critters. Oh, they love peanut butter, but they've learned to lick it off without snapping the traps. When you catch two in one trap or when you catch them in the daytime, you do indeed have a problem.

Maybe it is because we don't have cats. That is we almost don't have cats. There are three living here now but they turn up their noses and don't even eat mice. One cat is white and wild, while another is too friendly. This particular big black and white cat is unusual in that it has no tail. I'm sure that I don't know why. It just arrived here one day and hid in the cornfield and meowed loudly. Only when someone answered it's meow did it come out to be petted. Now it sneaks into the house whenever it gets a chance. It probably was someone's house pet before it came to our place.

The third animal was found

under a summer cottage and given to us as a cute orange and white kitten. It has grown a lot this summer and my husband likes to play with it and tease it.

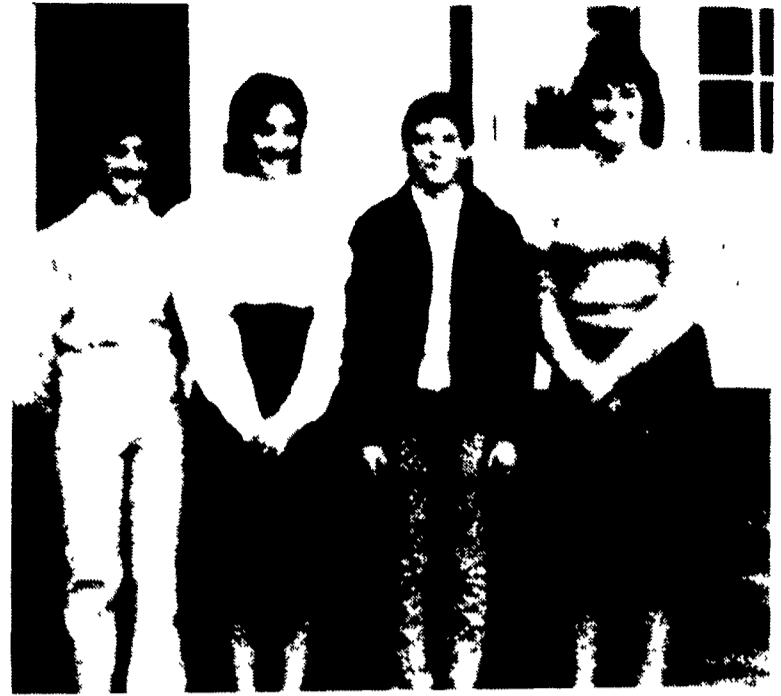
Despite the cats' lack of interest in mice, I'm sure that one of these days I'll be rid of all of the small, grey creatures. Now if they were in the cellar where I store my sweet potatoes, squash, popcorn and bulbs, that I could understand. But they've invaded the utility room, the TV room and a bedroom.

I think that I'd better go and bait some more traps.

4-H'ers attend dairy conference

CHEVY CHASE, Md. — Dairy Project members, Amy McKee, Becky Stewart, Lisa Claypoole and Bonnie Wilson, of Allegheny County, attended the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Conference at the National 4-H Club Center, Chevy Chase, Md.

Several Dairy Cooperatives assisted in off-setting the costs of the Conference which concentrated on the theme "Milk from Farm to Consumer". Delegates from four states attended seminars featuring guest speakers, toured the East Coast Icecream Plant, in Laurel, Md. and the Shenandoah Pride Dairy, in Springfield, Va. and considered possible careers in the dairy industry. Held each year in October, the Conference is geared to older 4-H and FFA members who are interested in a career within some aspect of the dairy industry - marketing, research, administration, genetics, farm operator, etc. Those interested in attending the 1984 Conference should contact their local 4-H Agent or FFA Advisor for further information.



Pennsylvania participants, left to right, in dairy conference include - Amy McKee, Becky Stewart, Lisa Claypoole, Bonnie Wilson; representing Allegheny County.

Vt. Farm Show expands

BARRE CITY, Vt. — A major expansion of the Vermont Farm Show will highlight the 3-day event's 50th Anniversary. Show Manager Everett Willard says "Utilization of the Barre City ice arena for exhibit space triples our display area, and we are now able to accommodate equipment companies which have been waiting up to ten years to become part of the show. Lack of space has been a handicap for many years, and use of the additional space will allow us to display more and larger equipment and thus to be an even greater attraction to Northeast farmers."

The 3-day show scheduled for Jan. 24, 25, and 26, 1984 will be comprised of a 3 prong program: One of the largest equipment displays in the Northeast; a farm product contest to identify and reward exhibitors of top-quality products; and a series of commodity group meetings featuring outstanding educational programs including nationally known speakers.

The Vermont Farm Show has been the winter highlight for area agriculturalists for 50 years and the 1984 expansion is generating new enthusiasm which is expected to bring record crowds to the anniversary event.

Barre City officials, the local Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont Department of Agriculture, and the many Vermont Agricultural Organizations are jointly gearing up to provide accommodations, services, and hospitality for the thousands of people expected to attend this year's show.



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