

Stump family youths share chores & showing

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS
Staff Correspondent

BERNVILLE — Amidst bundling up with coats, scarves and mittens, slipping over the ice to do chores and fixing frozen water pipes comes the time to prepare animals for the showing highlight of wintertime. It's Farm Show time again!

In Berks County, the Stump family of Stumpland Registered Holsteins, R1 Bernville, prepares in force for their favorite show of the season.

The 50 Stumpland Holsteins of the John and Rita Stump family have an extra advantage. They have five devoted, hard working siblings working with them. With Donna, age 20; Doris, 15; Doyle, 17; Denise, 14; and Dwaine, 11, doing much of the daily chores at home, nothing is left undone. What one brother or sister cannot get done, another pitches in and chores are completed.

"They work together," their father states proudly. Their cooperation in daily chores is also reflected in their preparation of their show animals and can also be seen when they are exhibiting their

animals in the way they constantly help each other.

This year the Stump children plan to take five of their favorite cows. "We usually don't take heifers and calves," states Donna, saying that their cows always seem to show better. There is "Candy", a Glendell Arlinda Chief daughter, of Doris', and "Brandi", her full sister, an 87 point, 6-year-old belonging to Denise, that they are most hopeful about. Doris and "Candy" captured the Grand Championship Showmanship title at Kutztown this past year and also has to her credit a Reserve Senior Championship as a two-year-old in 1981. Denise and "Brandi" took the Grand Championship at Kutztown in 1982 and are looking forward to the challenge of the Farm Show.

Donna's preparing her 4-year-old Betty Chief daughter, "Crissy" and her aged cow "Ursie" while Doyle's counting on his just fresh aged cow, "Susan", a sister to "Ursie".

As the kids remembered back to receiving their first animal from their father, they all agreed that it was really hard to wait until they were old enough for 4-H. "We used

to have fits when we couldn't go," states Doris referring to the time when she had to watch her older sisters and brother do to a show.

It seems that Debbie, an older sister now married and on her own farm near Frystown, set the trend for her brothers and sisters by starting the 4-H "tradition". Debbie was named "Distinguished Junior Member" of the Holsteion Club in 1981 and taught her brothers and sisters much of her expertise. "They learn from the older ones," John Stump stated.

The 4-H leader of the Western Berks Dairy Club for the past 11 years, John Stump stresses proper preparation for a show in both the animal and the exhibitor. "I encourage them to get up and watch the older ones," he says when at a show or local fair. "There's just many little things they must watch," he adds.

To further show efforts, the Stumps hosted a field day on their farm a few years ago to teach preparation and techniques to the younger members of the club. "I try to get all of them out there that I can," he states. The county Holstein club continues the field

days each year and it is proving to be an invaluable tool for teaching the youngsters, Stump explains. "In our club, the older members help the younger ones," Stump explains, taking his family philosophy to his 4-H club.

With Debbie off the home farm, Donna takes over the "oldest" position and has charge of naming offspring and the registration paperwork. Receiving the honor of "Honorable Mention, All Penn-

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Doyle Stump with "Susan."



Stump youths with their father, John, include from the left, Dwaine, Donna, Doyle, Doris and Denise.

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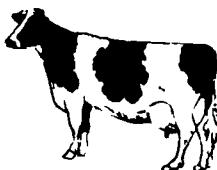
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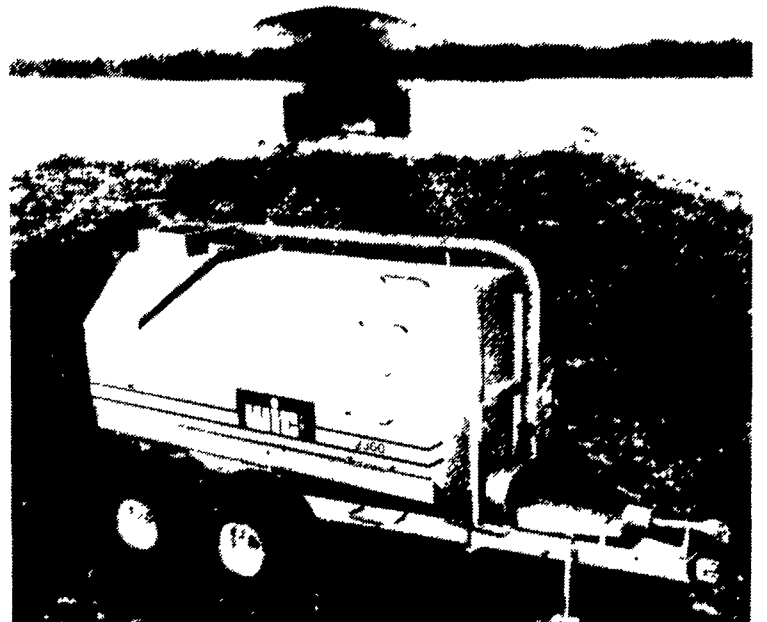
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