Trail of hard work and activities led to Outstanding 4-H title for Deb Martin Her hard work in her projects

BY SALLY BAIR Staff Correspondent

CONESTOGA — Deb Martin was eight years old when she attended her first 4-h Achievement Day and was enchanted by the selection of the 4-H Queen. It became her goal to be selected queen, but after being a finalist in the junior contest, she had to alter her goal when she contest was changed to an Outstanding 4-H Boy and Girl contest.

She admits to some disappointment over the change in titles, but it don't stop her from doing her best and pursuing her alternate goal: on Thursday she completed her year as Lancaster County's Outstanding 4-H girl.

The trail to achieving that title was years filled with 4-H activities and projects, and a willingness to work hard at whatever she did.

A member of the Penn Manor 4-H Community Club and the Lancaster County Woolies Club, Deb, 17, has raised sheep, strawberries, vegetables, flowers and capons. She has been a teen leader for vegetables and flowers and has served in every office available.

Deb can hardly remember exactly why she enrolled in 4-H, but recalls that it had to do with being in second grade with a friend, and they thought it would be fun to help the Penn Willow Club with its annual community clean-

up. They joined, helped pick up several truck loads of trash, and that was the start of 10 years of involvement for Deb.

Although she began with cooking and sewing, Deb, who lives south of Conestoga with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Martin, changed directions to flowers and vegetables because they were projects that didn't require weekly meetings and travel to other places. Deb says, "I can take these projects and still be on the farm."

She explains that her mother is now a leader for flowers and vegetables, and they help the 4-H'ers by working with in them in planting seeds so that they have appropriate materials to exhibit at Achievement Day in August.

Deb believes that the competition in 4-H is good. "Although they are not rewarded for every little thing, there should be a reward at the end, in the business world, the harder you work, the better of you are," she states.

Having remained in 4-H through the teen years, years when many find other interests, Deb says, "It's worth it to stay in. I have found that it's better to stay with one club or one project and do your best." As for achieving, she says with a smile, "It's like they say, the harder you work the luckier you get." If you stick with it, in the long run it pays off." She admits that

she is still striving and mentions her strawberry project where she has paid off in other ways. She got third place this year, after starting out last in her first year of outstanding project book in

received recognition for having the

named the Outstanding Shepherd in the Woolies Club last year, for her all-around accomplishments.

Last year, too, she received the (Turn to Page B15)



Her 15 Suffolk breeding and market sheep keep Deb busy. Last year she was named Outstanding Shepherd because of her all-around activities with the Lancaster County Woolies Club.





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