

Barbara Mummert

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ago. She had John with her, but found very few dealers would deal seriously with a woman, especially when they found out she wanted a four-wheel drive equipped to pull a trailer. One experience was so bad that she walked out of the dealership.

Financial independence wasn't easy either. She had never had a loan in her own name and there were no laws to encourage fair lending practices. She was also involved in a right-of-way lawsuit regarding their property at the time of Butch's death.

One experience sticks in Barbara's mind as a perfect example of what she faced every day. Two men came to her farm to purchase a boar. They tried to buy him for a very low price, as had many buyers since Butch's death.

After finally agreeing on a price they asked, "Who's going to load him?" They then offered to load the boar if she would take less money. She just looked at them and said she and her son would load the hog.

While she did just that, one guy stood there and laughed, while the other seemed shocked. Barbara said there was a moment at the top of the loading chute when she thought the boar might turn around, but she just kept thinking "I'll show them" and the boar went right on the truck.

Of all the businesses Barbara dealt with, the feed mill treated her "normally." They were supportive and treated her as a competent farmer. In fact, this helped her to have the strength to face the other businessmen, she said.

"I've gotten tougher through this. I am as good as any man, and I can take my punches with the best of them. I don't get worked up by the reactions now. I've come to expect to be treated badly sometimes and to have to deal with the wives of some of the men I deal with." Barbara feels this is what she has gained through this experience. "It is good to win in a man's world — to know that you can."

Barbara's advice to all women is to get involved in the family's farm operation. "At least be aware of

the financial aspects; that is critical to your success," she advises.

Barbara has some advice for newly-widowed farm wives too. "Sit down with your children and discuss the situation. Pay your bills together; let them help with the decisions to buy and sell. Many people will tell you that 'you can't do it,' (Barbara's father told her that), but if it is what you and your family want, stick to it. Devote quality time to your family. Most of all, talk to each other."

Barbara believes the most important advice she can give is: "Don't do anything for two months. Stay that long and try it and to get your head clear to make good decisions."

The Mummert family continues to show at Landrace shows throughout the nation. They have captured many Farm Show championships. John and Harold work in a furniture factory and farm part time. They both plan to stay involved in agriculture.

Barbara has a male friend who is very supportive of her family and their hog business. She is involved in many craft activities and loves

to take her children hunting and fishing. Barbara has always been an "outdoors person," but was not involved in hunting with her children until Butch died.

The family plans their vacations so that someone is always home to take care of the farm. The boys have been encouraged to bring their girlfriends home with them to become involved in an aspect of their lives that is very important. As the children have grown to become adults, they have stayed committed to the family.

Future plans include purchasing or renting more land and continuing in raising and showing Landrace hogs.

The Mummerts received a plaque from the Pennsylvania Swine Breeders Co-op in honor of Harold which reads, "In memory of Harold Mummert, who over the years has gained the respect of every purebred swine breeder for his accomplishments."

Certainly if you talk with Pennsylvania swine breeders today they would say Barbara Mummert and her family have also earned this distinction. They are a family who has gained the respect of many people.

Women in agriculture — the road has not been easy, but the rewards have been and continue to be great. As Barbara says, "Don't give up — you can make it in a man's world."

Insects cause explosions

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Insect-produced dust increases the potential for grain dust explosions by adding to the existing dust load at grain-handling facilities.

Hobart P. Boles, an entomologist for the

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, says lesser grain borers and rice weevils, the main dust producers, are the most damaging insects in stored grain in the hard red winter wheat-growing areas.

Boles and engineer Charles R. Martin, both at the research agency's U.S. Grain Marketing Research Laboratory, Manhattan, infested wheat samples with lesser grain borer and rice weevil adults and tested the explosion potential of the dust created by the insects.

Amounts of kernel fragments, starch granules and fecal pellets collected were less than the actual amounts present in the grain because they did not include the "hidden" dust that larvae produce as they develop within the kernels.

"The insects pack these pieces into the space they excavate around themselves," Boles says, "and the material is not released until the emerging progeny cuts through the kernel wall."

Boles and Martin found that one lesser grain borer could turn one tenth of a gram of grain into dust in 56 days. At that rate, bin infestation from this insect would increase the total fine dust load in stored grain by 83.3 percent in 56 days.

Stored-grain insects are divided into two groups. The inside feeders include the lesser grain borer, rice, granary and maize weevil and the Angoumois grain moth. Larvae develop within the kernel and comprise the hidden infestation in a grain mass. Surface feeders are red and confused flour beetles, saw-toothed grain beetles, flat and rust grain beetles, cadelles and Indian meal moths. Adults and larvae feed on grain dust or kernels broken during handling or on particles from the inside feeders.

Boles says the explosibility of insect-generated dust is similar to that of clean grain dust of the same size. The most explosive elements are the fine grain dust and the starch particles. Fine dust comprises 60 percent of normal grain dust and plays an important role in dust explosions, he says.

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Jaylu Acres Kutztown R D #3 Box 303 Berks County Pictured (L to R) are Darwin E. Boyd, Vice President and Director of the Agri Finance Department for Hamilton Bank; Feryl J. Treichler, Jane Treichler, and Larry A. Rush, Hamilton Bank Vice President and Area Manager. The Treichlers have a 51 cow herd and farm 550 acres. They are very active in community affairs. Feryl was past Pomona Grange Master of Berks County, past Chairman of the Penna. Grange Dairy Committee and serves on the Reading Fair Board. Jane is noted for her cooking, baking and quilting. They were the Outstanding Farm Family in Berks County in 1975 honored by the Reading Fair.

