

Musser family

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put the lambs on a stand, then squirt water into the wool, using a mild dish detergent. She cautioned that if you use a colored detergent, you could end up with colored sheep.

Greg said that they like to rinse their steers with water because it helps stimulate hair coat growth. He said one secret to working with the hair is to use beer on the coat for several weeks to make it stand up before clipping it. He said they will clip the belly, neck and head before they go, and clip off long hairs once they are there. He cautioned that the hair must be dry before clipping.

All four Mussers are looking forward to the Farm Show experience. They will be staying in the dormitory the night before the show. Greg said one year he slept with the animals but he didn't get any sleep.

Greg said the best part about Farm Show is meeting friends for

the week, and being able to relax. He added that though you work real hard you can relax after the show. He said Farm Show food is good for only one day, and then he's ready for more normal fare.

Tricia says she likes going because she gets off school, and also likes meeting "sheep kids from all over the state." As Doug's first time at the show he's looking forward to a day off school.

But for Diane there's only one reason for going. "I like to show my sheep," she says simply. "I think it's fun." She says she doesn't anticipate being nervous because there are lots of other people in the ring with her. She says she was nervous showing her steer last year because it was jumpy, and also because she has difficulty seeing over the steer.

Mr. and Mrs. Musser enjoy the few days respite as well as the kids, Harold says, "We enjoy it. It gives us a couple of days away." They will join their children in sleeping in the dormitory.

The show is on Wednesday, the steer show is on Thursday, and all junior projects are sold on Friday, so it will be a long, but interesting week for the Mussers.

Harold says, "The kids all help each other out. They work together and they root for each other."

No matter what the outcome, they view the show as an opportunity to work together as a family. The hard work is well worth the rewards of showing together, and when the last class is finished they will begin work on new year's steers. 4-H is a family tradition with the Mussers.

Frey family

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showing steers and looks forward to showing her first heifer next year.

All three girls confess that it's not always easy working with an older brother. "It's rough when he's out late," says Freida. "He's snappy the next morning."

"We fight about once a day," laughs Anna Marie, "but I figure he knows what he's doing."

And younger sister Heidi shows the same confidence in her coach. "He shows you what's right," she says.

As for the coach himself, Fritz doesn't hesitate to point out that this year's Farm Show cattle are far easier to control than three sisters.

"The heifers and steers don't argue back," he observes.

The Solanco High School senior confides that he, too, hopes to find a place in the beef cattle business someday. Future plans hopefully include an ag education at Penn State, a field of study for which he should be well qualified. In addition to his winning career in the showing, Fritz was one of four members of the 1984 State Livestock Judging Team. Among other respectable performances on the eastcoast last fall, the team placed first at the Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts, and third at the Eastern National in Timonium.

Standing in his backyard, high on a hilltop in southern Lancaster

Laura and Chad Folker

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kept at their grandparents and every day the children get off the bus there and do chores before going to their own home.

At the Farm Show there are about 200 pigs from the state, and 12 are allowed from Lancaster County.

The Folkers will be taking their pigs on Tuesday for the Thursday show and sale. Chad says they like to get pens as close to the ring as possible. He explains that Farm Show visitors "crowd around when

you clip them like they never saw it before. They ask weird questions." Laura notes, "They're afraid of pigs."

She said they will spend the night sleeping on hurdles laid across the top of the pig pens. She likened it to bunk beds, with the pigs underneath and the children on top. Chad, with obvious glee, says of their sleeping arrangements, "You don't get much sleep."

Both children look forward to the freedom of Farm Show. Laura says, "You get to know most of the people up there, and you try to get your pigs near each other."

Chad says, "There's a lot of junk you can do up there. You take your canes along and play hockey with smashed cans. We have a good time."

Although their parents will be at the show with them, Laura says she enjoys walking around the show with friends. She says, "I know my way everywhere."

The week will be a busy one, and both children will have excused absences from their schools. When asked how they expect to do, they both replied, "Hopefully, we'll do good."

Farm Show weather

HARRISBURG — "Farm Show weather..." Pennsylvanians often associate this agricultural classic with weather conditions that normally prevail at showtime in mid-January.

But, if December temperature readings and weather records from Farm Shows since 1917 are any indications, conditions for the 1985 Show Jan. 13-18 should prove hospitable to visitors.

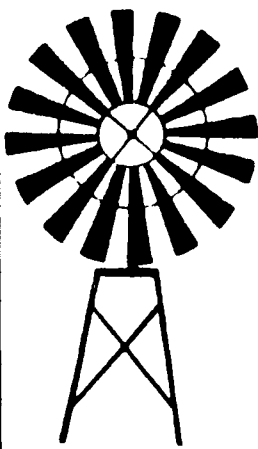
According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), readings for the month of December were 8.2 degrees above normal. The December results were forecast as part of a 90-day outlook issued in November calling for warmer than normal temperatures through January. That, coupled with the fact that the average Farm Show has

experienced only two days of inclement weather, is a good sign for the hundreds of thousands who visit the 14-acre indoor exhibition each year.

Visitors to the 1984 show were greeted with trace amounts of snow on three days and sunny, seasonal days for the remainder of the exhibition.

There have been five Farm Shows with perfect weather, according to NOAA. The four-day shows in 1921 and 1922, and the five-day shows in 1934, 1953 and 1973 all share the distinction. The 1973 show also claimed the existing record for attendance with 750,000 visitors.

Other records for Farm Show week have been: 1964 with the largest snowfall, 18 inches; 1918 had 16 inches of snow and 1970 had 14 inches of snow on the ground. A record high temperature was set in 1970 with a 66 degree reading.



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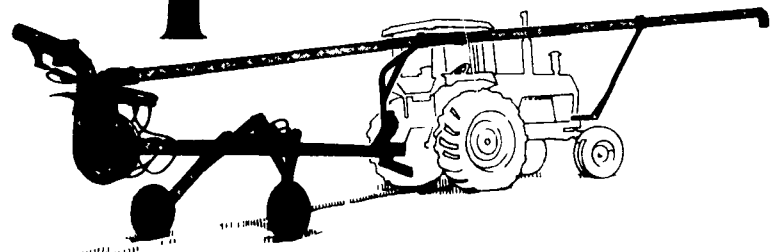
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