

College education

(Continued from Page B2)
 job on a dairy farm," she notes.
 Like Nancy, Kathy Stroock of

Mechanicsburg is using her education on the farm. Kathy, a 1980 Penn State graduate, works on her parent's farm with her father, J. Paul Stroock. The Stroocks milk 120 cows and crop farm about 150

acres.

"I wasn't planning on coming back on the farm, but I was interested in ag," Kathy notes. She entered college with the intention of pursuing a career in research. but a year into her studies she changed her mind.

"I wanted to do something where I could see the results of what I've done," she said, explaining that a job as a researcher could not have offered her that. "I never even considered returning to the farm. It was just not one of the options," she says.

But when the possibility of her coming home to the farm after school was raised, her father said simply, "I think you can do it." That was all the encouragement Kathy needed to abandon her plans for research and change her major from plant science to agronomy.

Kathy believes her college experience was important "because it made me aware of a lot of things I would never have known about.

"I think if I hadn't gone to college, there would be so many things I'd do without knowing why," she says.

For example she always knew to strip some milk from a cow before beginning the milking, but she didn't know why until she was in college. "You understand the reasons why you do it, and it seems more worthwhile."

The facts she learned in school are also useful when Kathy is

formulating feed, keeping records and programming breeding information into the computer. She cares for the young stock and takes care of all the reproductive work. She also does milking, field work, and feeding.

"But college is so much more than learning facts," she continues. Kathy believes the exposure to new ideas and people she got at college has been especially important.

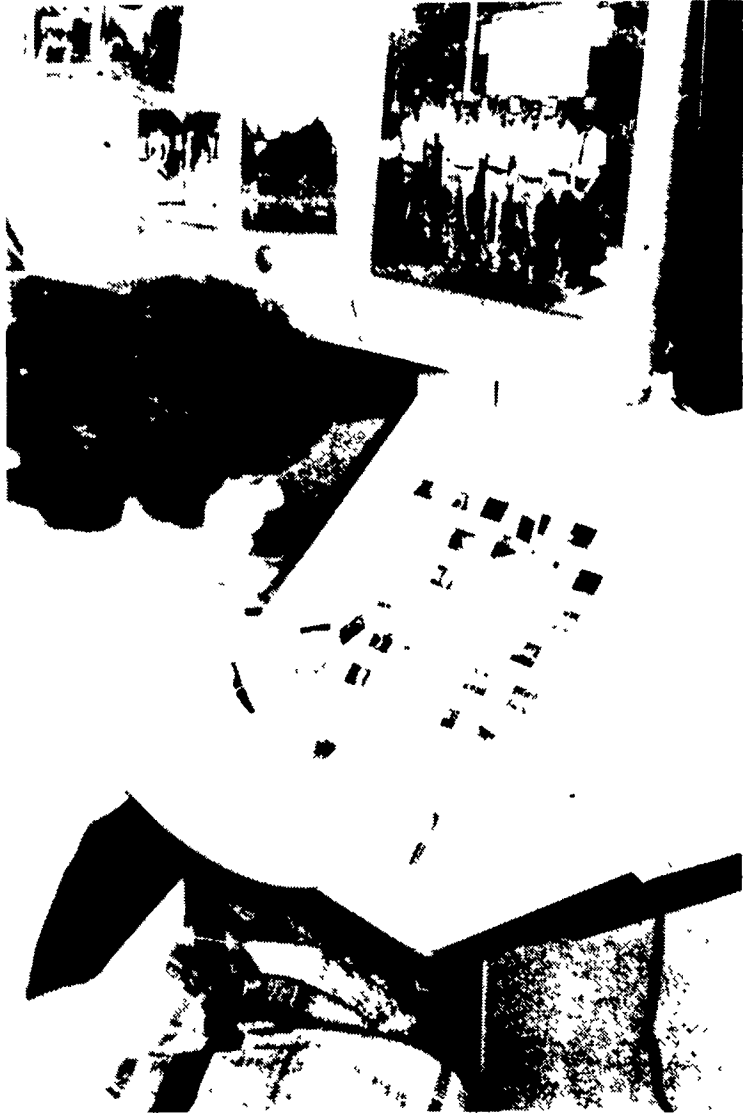
Like the others, Kathy says she met people who have been invaluable to her and who have opened doors that otherwise might have remained closed.

Kathy has found the communication skills she developed in college to be especially useful. "Don't let anyone tell you you don't

need good communication skills," she stresses. "It's important for people to be able to speak well."

She credits her excellent communication skills with helping her be selected a Young Co-operator by Inter-State Milk Cooperative last June. The contest involved interviews with three judges and a five-minute oral presentation. Along with the title came an all-expense paid trip to Montana to the National Institute of Cooperative Education.

For all these young women, a college education has helped them on their road to successful ag careers. The degrees may have been helpful, but it is their dedication to learning and a hunger for knowledge and improvement that is their ticket to success.



Kim Stroud takes a close look at some slides a member has requested.



Saturday, June 1

Lancaster Society 6 meets at the home of Eva Parrett for a program by dairy princess Judy Miller.

Lancaster Society 1 meets for a legislative meeting by James Huber.

Lancaster Society 10 meets.

Tuesday, June 4

Lancaster Society 23 meets at 7:30 p.m. for an ice cream social.

Thursday, June 6

Lancaster Society 14 meets at noon at Historic Strasburg for a 50th anniversary celebration.

Lancaster Society 20 meets for an auction.

Friday, June 7

Lancaster Society 19 meets for a program called "Color Me Happy," by Carolyn Tennehals.

Saturday, June 8

Lancaster Society 25 meets for a tour of the Water Street Mission at 2 p.m.

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