

Editor's Note: The week of Oct. 7 to 13 has been designated National 4-H Week and Lancaster Farming takes this opportunity to recognize some of this organization's outstanding members and leaders.

Through talking with 4-H'ers from across the state, Lancaster Farming correspondents Sally Bair, Joyce Bupp, Sally Dunmire, Donna McConaughy and Beth Nesbit have found that the 4-H program goes far beyond project opportunities.

Through their project work and leadership positions held within their clubs, these 4-H'ers have developed their leadership and communication skills. They say their involvement in 4-H has taught them about responsibility and sportsmanship, and has helped them feel more self-confident in every facet of their busy lives.

The stories in this special section are devoted to only some of Pennsylvania's outstanding 4-H members who represent a host of others who have benefitted from this program.

State Horticulture winner gains confidence, knowledge through 4-H

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent

MYERSTOWN — "I'm definitely more self-confident now," Ann Grumbine, 17, says as she reflects on some of the ways 4-H has helped her. "I've gained a lot of new experiences and a lot of new friends."

Ann, a Lebanon County 4-H'er for seven years, is this year's state horticultural winner, a reflection of the hard work she has put into her many projects. When asked why she joined 4-H as a youngster, she answers simply, "Because my parents were in it."

Ann's parents are Ray and Martha Grumbine, who operate a greenhouse near Myerstown. They have worked with the 4-H judging teams in the county, and are now leaders as well. Martha was an outstanding 4-H'er in Adams County, so knows well what challenges there are for interested 4-H'ers.

Taking full advantage of the opportunity to travel to state events, Ann has been a state winner with a demonstration and this year was on the state winning flower judging team. Her winning demonstration was on how to make a "tuzzy muzzy," and she won a medal at the Junior Horticultural Association meeting in Tulsa Oklahoma in 1983.

This year she will travel with the judging team to Kentucky, where members will give extemporaneous speeches. She says, "I really enjoy giving speeches. I love to stand in front of people and have their attention." Part of her confidence in this area comes from participating in the storytelling segment of Leadership Congress at Penn State, something that helps her tell the 4-H story.

She is also part of Lebanon County's 4-H Ambassador program, which enables 4-H'ers to speak to civic organizations about the benefits of 4-H. This year the Ambassadors hope to speak to elementary school children to recruit members.

Ann thinks that getting 4-H'ers interested in state events is one way to keep them involved. "If you get them to one state event, they will love it and stay in 4-H." Ann has traveled to Penn State for Leadership Congress and State Days for three years. She also attended Citizenship Washington Focus.

She said, "You must give children an incentive to be in. You must show them that it's fun, and not all work. The primary part is fun, and secondary is learning something." For older 4-H'ers, Ann recommends pointing out career opportunities as well as other learning experiences.

It was 4-H that really focused Ann's career plans, although she was already interested in horticulture because of her family's business. Her plans are to attend Penn State and major in horticulture, with an eye to going into research. She says she'd like to work with developing new hybrids and growing plants without gravity.

Her judging team experience meant a lot to Ann, who is especially pleased that she placed second in the state as an individual. "We worked so hard for

two years," she recalls. In addition to learning sportmanship as a member of the judging team, Ann says, "I learned to know all the flowers and gained a lot of information about gardening that I might not otherwise have learned."

Ann believes the competition in 4-H is beneficial because "people strive to do a better" in a competitive situation.

A member of the Avon-East Lebanon 4-H Club and the Glorious Gardeners as well as being a teen leader for the Country Lads and Lassies, Ann has taken a wide variety of projects. In addition to outdoor flower and vegetable gardening, she has taken indoor gardening, corsages, houseplants and dish gardens, plus macrame, crocheting, cooking and preserving.

With two more years to go, and already a state winner, are there still goals for Ann? Yes, she admits that she would really like to be chosen as one of the several Outstanding 4-H'ers from the state to go to the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. And she would like to be the one designated as the state ambassador. A smaller goal is attending state Capitol Days.

Ann would also like to encourage people to give more demonstrations, and has developed her own demonstration to give advice to those who need it.

She is the first to admit that

projects sometimes get discouraging. She says, "About the end of July I will feel discouraged and say, 'Do I want to work this hard?'" She says she sometimes has to wait until after round-up to realize that it was worth all her effort.

Good record-keeping is a must for anyone interested in competing on a state and national level. Ann admits that she began keeping "good records" in 1981, and that it was a struggle to remember what she had done before that. "It was hard to dig out," she adds.

Asked what she would be doing if she weren't in 4-H, Ann says, "I'd probably be in Girl Scouts."

She enjoys crocheting, riding bike and visiting with friends in her spare time. A senior at Eastern Lebanon County High School, Ann plays in the band, is on the senior class council, the newspaper, and is alternate representative for home room. She manages the flower chart at her church, and spends a lot of time working in her parent's flower shop.

Although she has achieved the ultimate in 4-H, a trip to National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago, Ann will remain an active 4-H'er setting more goals and helping others gain skills and confidence as she has done.

As she says in the 4-H story that accompanied her form for national competition, "I have learned more about what is important in life."



Lebanon County 4-H'er Ann Grumbine reviews one of her project books.

Michelle Dean gains new skills through 4-H

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent

STRASBURG — When Michelle Dean was younger she could hardly wait to join 4-H. Now that she is 19 and in her 11th year, she still feels the same interest, and is definitely glad she had the opportunity to be a member. She says, "It was worth it."

In her family, 4-H was a family tradition with both mother and father as leaders and her older brother an active member. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Dean, R1 Strasburg. Her brother is Gary, currently a beef club leader, and member of the Extension Board.

She says, "I couldn't wait to get my first steer. My family dragged me along to all the shows."

A member of the Red Rose Baby Beef Club, Michelle also joined the Solanco Community Club to show pigs and the Lampeter Strasburg 4-H Guys and Gals for cooking and sewing. She has served as a teen leader in that club for four years.

Michelle has had many successes with her steers, most recently winning grand champion 4-H steer at the Lampeter Fair, and reserve champion overall. Nevertheless she says, "I think it should be stressed that 4-H'ers shouldn't concentrate on winning. There is not enough stress on what you are learning and what fun you can have."

For first and second year members, Michelle says the most important thing to do is to make friends, something she found difficult when she first joined.

While winning isn't everything,

it is nice when the opportunity arises. Michelle was a member of the first-place state 4-H judging team last year, and as such traveled to five contests in the fall. The team eventually placed sixth in the national contest at Louisville, and Michelle was ninth high individual.

Four years of her 4-H career were spent preparing for judging teams. She was on the junior livestock team for two years, the meats team for one year and the senior team which took first place. About judging she says, "I gained

a lot more confidence in myself as I had to give reasons." In fact, she says the whole judging experience was one of her most worthwhile challenges as a 4-H'er.

Michelle also participated in two exchange trips, one to North Carolina and one to Massachusetts, and went to Harrisburg as a part of Capitol Days.

A member of the County Council, she also served in all offices with her clubs over the years. She was awarded a scholarship by the Lancaster County Bankers

Association, and also by the Farm and Home Foundation.

In reward for her hard work, she was recognized as the Outstanding Lancaster County 4-H girl in 1982-83, and was named to the 4-H honor roll that same year.

A member of the Future Farmers of America at Lampeter Strasburg High School where she graduated in May, Michelle also earned her Keystone degree, and served as vice-president and secretary of the Garden Spot chapter.

She credits her FFA and 4-H work with helping her decide to pursue a career in agriculture. She is now a freshman at the York Campus of Penn State and will transfer to the main campus next year to study animal production. She would like to enter some sort of service field in agriculture, like extension work, so that she can help people.

As a senior in high school, she was a peer counselor, something she enjoyed because of the help it provided. She was also active in the Future Homemakers of America.

Asked if there are projects she hasn't taken that she wishes she had, Michelle replied, "Cake decorating and sheep."

And she admits that showing the grand champion steer at the state Farm Show would be like "a dream come true." She says, "It is something everybody would like to do. I admire the people who win it. It is a neat accomplishment."

As she approaches the final show and sale of her 4-H career in

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After 11 years as a 4-H member, Michelle Dean says her enthusiasm for the program remains high.