

# Spicklers are bullish on Ayrshire cows

BY SALLY BAIR  
Staff Correspondent

**MOUNT JOY** — "Hard work is all that's left," says 14-year-old Angela Spickler as she sums up her preparations for showing her 4-H dairy animals at the state Farm Show next week.

Angela and her 12-year-old brother Anthony are members of the Ayrshire, Jersey and Brown

Swiss 4-H Club and will be showing Ayrshire senior yearlings at the state event. Angela will also show a junior yearling. Their parents are James and Linda Spickler, Elizabethtown R.D. 1.

Showing at Farm Show is not new to either of them, and they both are eagerly looking forward to traveling there this year. They get to miss school for the day of the

show, and most of the daily care of the animals falls on their mother Linda. Angela says that last year she had a milking cow which is a much heavier commitment than the heifers will be.

A student at Donegal High School, Angela says she doesn't like to make up the school work she misses, but she likes to show. "It's a lot of fun." Getting the animals ready for showing is "just as fun," she says, except for washing them when they are really dirty.

Dairy animals require some special clipping, and Angela says she learned to do her own clipping this year, admitting, "I make my share of mistakes."

While Anthony shares Angela's enthusiasm for showing, he is quite candid and says he does not enjoy fitting his heifer. "Getting animals ready is for the birds."

Nevertheless he can see the value in the hard work and says that one of the benefits of joining 4-H has been to learn to care for animals and the proper way to groom them. He attends W.I. Beam Junior High School and has been in 4-H for five years.

Angela says she's glad she joined 4-H six years ago because she has learned a lot about people. "I have learned to meet new people and



Veteran showmen Anthony and Angela Spickler are members of the Lancaster Ayrshire, Jersey, Brown Swiss 4-H Club.

how to work with people. You also get a lot of patience. She says most of her 4-H friends are from within the county, and she likes seeing them at 4-H events. Angela has held many offices in her club and now serves as a teen leader.

One reason they joined 4-H was the urging of their father, who was a member for 10 years. "I liked it,"

James said. "It gives the children a chance to get away for some other activities when they are busy on the farm." The Spicklers milk 34 Ayrshires, a breed that Spickler likes because of their efficiency and higher butterfat. "Their feed consumption is lower and the initial investment is lower," Spickler says, with a higher dollar return.

Daughter Beth is just eight and will begin 4-H this year. She already has chosen her project animal, and has already had some experience helping her sister and brother.

Angela now owns nine animals, and she has done fairly well with her project animals. Her father says with a laugh, "She got started lucky." Anthony owns five animals.

As to how they will fare when the cows are finally placed next week, Angela says she doesn't know, but the first thing she always does is to

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Prepping dairy animals for a show is hard work. Here, Angela Spickler handles the brush while brother Anthony holds his sister's senior heifer, Vega.



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