

Holsteins Play Major Role In DJM's Life

BY MARY MAXWELL
Centre County Correspondent
SPRING MILLS — Holsteins have always been an important part of Barbara Houser's life. First as a daughter of Jay and Mary Houser, growing up on their Penn-Dell Farm in Centre County and later as an active 4-H breeder and exhibitor. Then last February, her years of hard work and enthusiasm were recognized when she was named Distinguished Junior Member, Girls Senior Division by

the Pennsylvania Holstein Association.
Barbara received her first calf, a heifer, as a gift from her parents in 1975. Her herd has now grown to 11 animals.
She started showing her animals in the local Centre Hall Grange Fair winning "lots of grand champions." "In fact," she says, "there was only one year out of seven when I didn't win the grand champion ribbon in the open Holstein show."

Barbara also exhibited a cow that was 4-H overall breed champion and has received master fitter and showman awards. "I was the overall champion showman twice," she reports with a modest smile.

As a 4-H member she showed her animals at the state Farm Show and received a blue ribbon for her senior yearling in 1976.

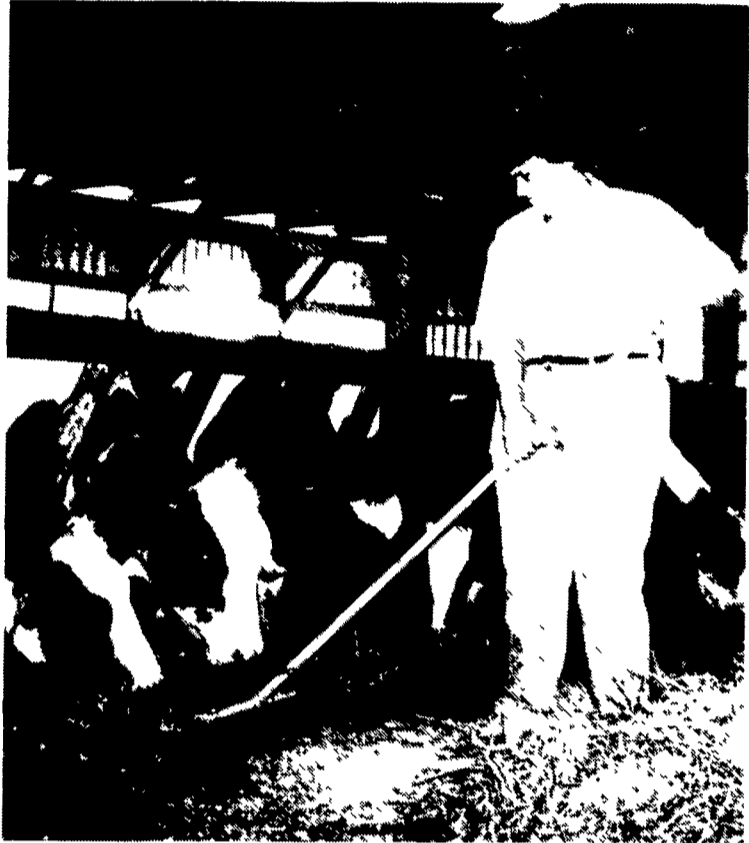
Barbara's activities have not been limited to farm chores and her animals.

As a student at Penns Valley High School she contributed regularly to the "Paging Youth" section of the local newspaper, reporting on student activities in her school. She was "Teenager of the Month" during October of her senior year, played on the Penns Valley softball team and sang in the chorus for six years. In addition, Barbara was on the honor roll from seventh grade through her senior year and for this distinction received a scholastic award when she graduated in June, 1984.

As a member of St. Marks Lutheran Church in nearby Spring Mills, Barbara is on the social and worship committee. "I was always active in the Youth Group," she says, "but now (at 21) they tell me I'm too old. But," she adds, "I don't feel too old."

Jay and Mary have three older daughters and a younger son all involved in dairy farming. Mary Ellen, a teacher at Spring Mills Elementary, lives and helps on one of the family's farms. Sandra, an English teacher in Altoona, commutes back on weekends to assist her husband with the milking operation on their farm near Howard.

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Barbara also helps with the milking herd at the start of the day before beginning her job as secretary at Penn State.



With her mother, Mary Houser, Barbara (right) looks over awards she has won as Holstein exhibitor and Penns Valley High School student.



Chores start early for Barbara Houser as she feeds her calves before going off to her job as secretary in the department of dairy and animal science at Penn State.

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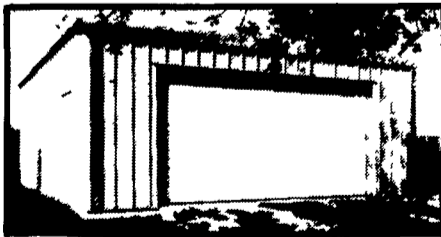
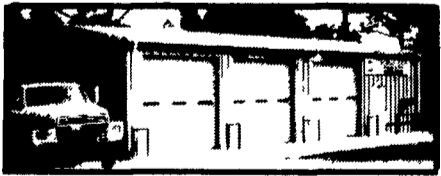


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