

Stydinger Tabbed Youth Representative For Goat Association

BY BETH N. GRAY

Bedford Co. Correspondent

HUNTINGDON — Nancy Stydinger, 18, of Elliottsburg, who has been helping her family raise goats since she was five years old, was crowned Youth Representative of the Pennsylvania Dairy Goat Association at ceremonies here June 20.

She succeeds Glenda Hockenberry of Port Royal who received a citation for outstanding efforts in her year's reign. Making the presentation was State Rep. Samuel Hayes of Huntingdon

County.

Selected Youth Representative Alternate was Brenda Shirley, 16, of Saltsburg.

Stydinger said that in her new role she expects to talk to 4-H Club members about the merits of goats, to be present at various shows to distribute awards and to promote dairy goat products at next year's State Farm Show.

The Stydinger operation began, Nancy said, when her mother brought home one goat as a pet. Today the herd consists of 26 head of La Manchas and Alpines. While

the young woman maintained, "There is no best breed," she said she especially likes the La Manchas for their docility.

While her parents, Walter and Janice Stydinger, are in charge of the herd and Janice does most of the milking, Nancy helps in all phases and is in charge of showing the animals. From goat's milk she makes cheese and fudge. The Stydingers also raise feeder pigs on goat's milk.

A 4-H'er, Nancy raises a herd of 130 rabbits as well.

Shirley introduced goats to her family farm, explaining that her older sister raised steers as a 4-H project but when Brenda began in 4-H she was small and the steers were big. She decided on a more manageable species and selected goats. She owns 20 Nubians, La Manchas and Alpines.

In her eight years of experience with the herd, Shirley observed, "I'm in charge of them. What doesn't get done is my fault. They're my responsibility." She added that her family helps her when necessary. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Shirley.

Both young women were quick to point out that goat's milk is more digestible than cow's milk because of its smaller fat globules. Shirley added that she prefers goat cheese for its smoothness.

Youth representative selection was based on a written essay about the contestants' experiences with goats, and an interview. The title is not "queen" since the competition is open to young men as well as women.



Nancy Stydinger (seated) was crowned the 1987-88 Pennsylvania Dairy Goat Youth Representative at the 'Big Weekend' held recently in Huntingdon. Brenda Shirley will serve as her alternate.

Goat Cheese/Fudge Winners Listed

HUNTINGDON — Foodstuffs made from goat's milk got an evaluation at the two-day event sponsored by the Pennsylvania Dairy Goat Association here. Judges evaluated cheeses and fudge for flavor, texture and type.

Winners, in descending order, included:

Hard cheese — Janice Barket of McClure, Helen Snyder of West Newton.

Soft cheese — Snyder, Jane

Schalidtky of Landisburg.

Specialty cheese — Schalidtky, Snyder.

Chocolate fudge — Shirley Shields of Rochester Mills, Suzanne Bennett of Amity, Karen Duchess of Washington County.

Vanilla fudge — Duchess.

Peanut butter fudge — Sandy Bowen of Port Royal.

Specialty fudge — Marjorie Gephart of Westmoreland County, Bowen, Shields.

Apple Referendum Set For Pa. Growers

CAMP HILL — The Pennsylvania Farmers' Association commended the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for its quick response in issuing letters to state apple producers calling for a referendum to restore the apple marketing promotion program. The recent passage of amendments to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Commodities Act of 1968, returned control of commodity marketing programs back to producers.

"The amendments contained in Act 1 of 1987, are the most important pieces of agricultural legislation to pass the Pennsylvania General Assembly this season," said Keith Eckel, president of the farm organization. "For more than 16 years, a spirit of

partnership existed between producers and the Department of Agriculture," he said. "Such activities were thought to be out of the realm of partisan politics, and operated efficiently and effectively without interference from the Governor's office," said Eckel.

"In February, 1985, the Governor's administrative staff issued a legal memorandum that required all hiring of administrative personnel and all commodity marketing contracts would be subject to prior approval by the Governor's office," Eckel said.

"Certain commodity producers, whose assessment revenues financed nearly the entire marketing program costs, reacted negatively in a referendum vote,

while other commodities covered by the act saw diminished effort on their behalf," he added.

"The apple marketing program was one of the most effective commodity promotions in the state," according to Eckel.

Apple growers with 500 or more apple trees are eligible to vote on

the referendum. Ballots must be returned to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture by July

8. A favorable vote could see mandatory assessments begin by early fall.

Shorthorn Assoc. Plans Field Day

NEVVILLE — The Pennsylvania Milking Shorthorn Society will hold its annual field day at Three Springs Farm owned by James and Lynn Young, Route 1, Box 162, Newville.

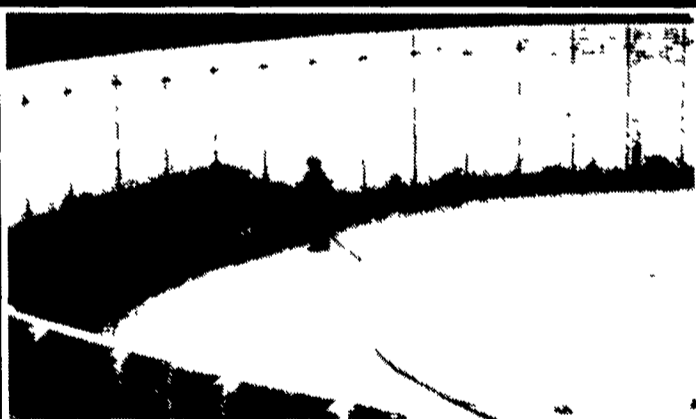
The day begins at Noon with a lunch provided by the Youngs. Following lunch there will be a short business meeting and a tour

of the Three Springs farm.

To get to the Cumberland County Milking Shorthorn farm, follow Interstate 81 to Exit 11. Turn south on Route 233 and follow it for one mile. At the stop sign turn right (west) on Route 174. After one mile turn left (south) to first farm.

To make reservations, contact the Youngs at 717-776-7234.

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