

Kid's KOrner

Life With Country Twins



Melanie loves to brush her rabbit's long fur. The rabbit must not enjoy having her picture taken because she hid her ears.

BY LOU ANN GOOD

Do you ever wish you were a twin?

Melanie and Michele Bushong are twins who believe they have double fun living on the Lebanon Valley farm.

These blue-eyed girls with sun-streaked brown hair not only look alike but also share the same interests.

Often their friends can't tell them apart. So, when they ask, "Which twin are you?" Melanie grins and says, "I'm Michelle." The twins think it is great fun to trick their friends.

Melanie says, "I like being a twin so we can share our clothes." But Michele admits that sometimes they fight over clothing if they both want to wear the same thing.

These twelve-year-old twins are 4-H members who are already planning for their future. They save the money they make raising rabbits, dogs and calves for college.

Presently, they have 55 Dutch Angora and French Angora rabbits. Melanie prefers taking care of the rabbits because she likes brushing their long hair.

Michelle likes taking care of her calf better than doing any other farm chore. She does a good job because her calf won the senior champion award at the Lebanon 4-H show. Melanie's calf won the junior reserve champion award; then both showed their calves at the district 4-H show. There, both received blue ribbons, master showman and master fitter awards in their separate classes. This qualifies them to compete in the PA All American Dairy Show.

The girls have five Brittany Springer Spaniels which they breed and sell. This spring, one of the dogs had 7 puppies. After the puppies are eight weeks-old the girls sell them.

Michele said sadly, "Sometimes it's hard to sell our animals." But the girls don't have time to waste being sad. They get busy taking care of all their other animals.

These busy twins live with their parents Dale and Fran Bushong and a brother Matt.

If you go to any 4-H roundups, keep your eyes open—you might think you are seeing double if you bump into the twins, Melanie and Michelle.



Everyday the twins help their parents milk 85 cows. The girls wash the cows & change the milkers in their Lebanon Valley barn.



Michelle isn't holding a stuffed rabbit! It is one of the 55 beautiful Angora rabbits they raise to sell or give to another 4-H'er.



Here are the twins with 2 of their Brittany Springer Spaniels. Twice a year the dogs have puppies. When the puppies are 8 weeks old, the girls sell them.



Do you know which twin is holding onto this award-winning calf?