

FFA Teaches Animals And Confidence To New Holland Girl

BY LISA RISSER

NEW HOLLAND — Surround Kristin Chupp with her animals and the cheerful, confident teenager becomes even more confident and content. At ease with both small and large animals, Kristin prefers the larger animals, in fact, she plans to become a veterinarian specializing in them.

Her affinity with animals made becoming a FFA member and a 4-H'er a natural course. "Shove any animal my way and I'll love it," Kristin declared. "I went into production in the vo-ag department because I could raise animals. I never thought twice about it."

Kristin's menagerie currently consists of four steers, two sheep, and a horse, of which two steers are projects for 4-H. She belongs to the New Holland and Red Rose Baby Beef clubs, the latter of which she joined in the sixth grade.

A junior at Garden Spot High School, Kristin has been in the school's vo-ag department since her first year. Her animal projects, which require her to raise and train an animal for show and eventual sale, have helped her learn their feeding and housing needs, behavioral habits, and health requirements, all of which will be invaluable to Kristin as a veterinarian.

She also has learned about the care of animals from her step-



The animals that Kristin shows are kept at her stepfather's hog and beef cattle farm. Her projects this year include four steers, two sheep, and a horse.

father, Larry Weaver, a hog and beef cattle farmer, who himself was active in FFA as a high-school student. Sharing in this learning experience is her mother, Barb, and her sister, Jodie Weaver, a sophomore and with whom Kristin competes in a good-natured manner.

Kristin received additional

training this past summer by observing and helping doctors George Zimmerman and Melvyn Wenger of the Conestoga Animal Hospital in Ephrata. In the mornings, she helped Dr. Wenger with small animals and afternoons were spent with Dr. Zimmerman doing cow pregnancy tests.

Kristin's yearly steer projects

begin when she and her family take a drive to a New York beef cattle farm in July and select one or more unweaned calves. She returns to New York in October, when the calves are weaned, to bring them to her farm.

"The smaller steers aren't tame so you have to get them-used to the

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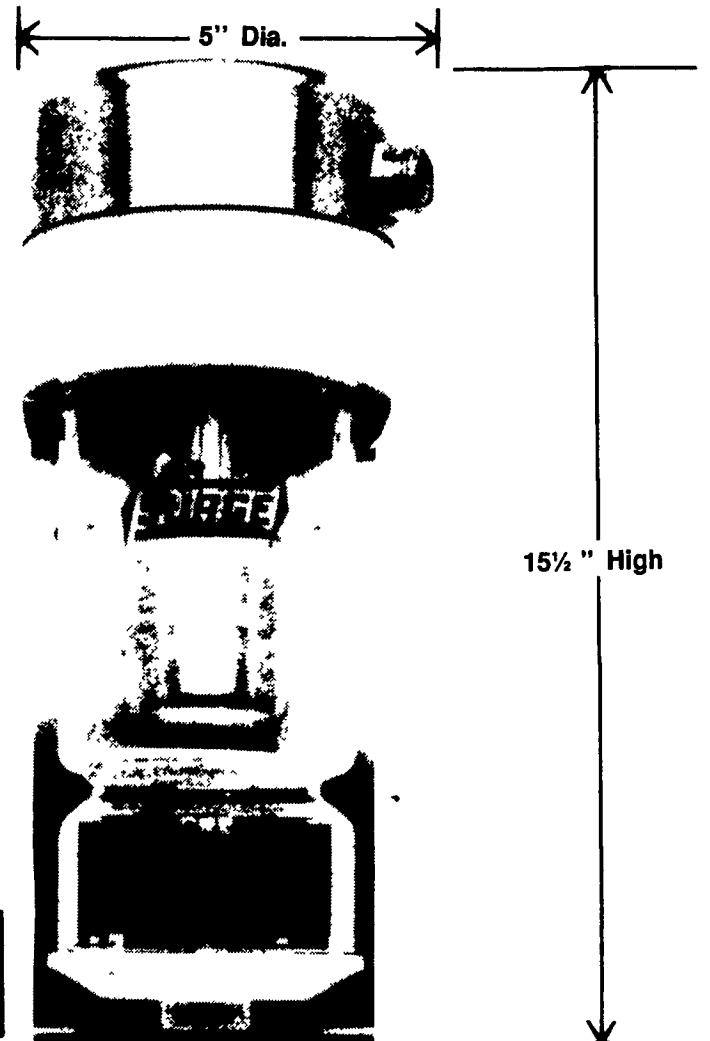
Kristin and her animals have won many awards during her years in FFA and 4-H. Here are those that she received this year.



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