

Outstanding Holstein Youth Gets Involved

BY BETH N. GRAY
Bedford C. Correspondent
LOYSBURG — Sarah Ann Baker's schedule reads as if she's trying to make up for all the young people who don't get involved, a fact about others for which she feels badly. The 1988 Bedford County Outstanding Holstein Youth, named at the annual banquet of the County Holstein Club here last week, said, "There are a lot of ways for people to get involved. It seems like most youth don't want to get involved."

The 18-year-old daughter of J. Allen and Norma Baker of Bedford, RD4, has been building her registered Holstein herd since she first joined the Friendly Moo-Moos 4-H Club at age eight. She recently joined the newly organized County 4-H Dairy Judging Club and says she's looking forward to involvement in a Youth Dairy Bowl, if the tentative project should get underway. She also belongs to the County 4-H Teen Club.

The senior at Bedford Area High School is a full-fledged worker at Allenor Holsteins, owned by her parents. She arises daily between 4:30 and 5 a.m. to ready the barn for milking, to feed the calves and to bed the cows. In the winter she helps to hay cows in the evening, cleans the milk tanks and finishes odd chores. And in the summer she helps with haying as well.

All are experiences that Baker appreciates. In her essay that helped her earn the "Outstanding Youth" title, Baker wrote: "Farming is always challenging and a stimulating experience for me. I look back on all the years of growing up on a farm and it fascinates me to know that I have seen a beautiful life created and brought into this world as a calf."

As the young woman has built a family from her original calf, Allenor Sun Lisa, she's won reserve champion female at the Bedford County Fair five times. A disappointment has been the lack of a grand championship.

"That's what I'd like to get this year," she noted. Another disappointment has been an abundance of bull calves. Her cow family today includes Lisa plus her daughters Allenor Citation Lin and Allenor Belle Linda plus Linda's offspring, Allenor Tora Lydia.

Baker is conversant in DHIA numbers and classifications. All of her cows have classified Very Good. Their most recent records:
 Lisa, a 5-year-old: 20,338 lbs. milk and 694 lbs. butterfat;
 Linda, a 4-year-old: 17,000 lbs. milk and 563 lbs. butterfat;
 Lin, a 3-year-old: 19,500 lbs. milk and 712 lbs. butterfat;
 Lydia, a 2-year-old: 15,300 lbs. milk and 624 lbs. butterfat.
 "They're a good family for milk production," she said, yet added that she'd like to bring in an out-of-

family female for her 4-H effort this year.

She expects to be able to show the new animal to a 4-H'er from the South. Baker is looking forward to hosting an exchange 4-H'er for a week during the coming summer. Last summer she herself visited a Kansas 4-H family for a week, after serving as hostess at Allenor the previous summer to a Kansas 4-H'er.

She did all that amidst two successful seasons learning cooperative enterprise. In 1986 she advanced from the county to the regional and to the state Institute of Cooperative Education sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Farm Cooperatives. At the latter she was chosen to take part in the American Institute of Cooperative Education at Knoxville, Tenn. Last summer she served on the scholar staff for the PAFC institute.

Baker is likewise busy at school where she has lettered on the track team, is secretary and treasurer of the local chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving, is a member of chorus and its elite group, the Varsity Singers. She also serves as a library aid and is an honor roll student.

As a community service effort, Baker helps conduct a weekly story hour at the public library for pre-kindergarten children. She teaches Sunday school and is lector at her church.

The Allenor farming enterprise includes 150 registered Holsteins in milk— "three are Excellent and more than 30 are Very Good," Baker notes -- and some 600 acres

of owned and rented land in corn, alfalfa, mixed grasses and soybeans. Her father has won honors as Pennsylvania's best alfalfa grower in four years since 1982.

The young woman is undecided about her career. "I have so many interests and there are so many things to do," she says. Her agenda spells it out.

Census Counting On Farm Operators

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Farmers and ranchers — have you returned your 1987 Census of Agriculture form? The U.S. Census Bureau says the form was due February 1. If you haven't, the bureau asks you to please take a few minutes to complete it.

Use your best estimates if you don't have the information in your records. Return your forms to the Census Bureau even if you did not grow any crops, or have any livestock, poultry, or other agricultural products in 1987, so the bureau can correct its records.

If you have questions or need help filling out your form, call the Census Bureau's toll-free number, 1-800-233-6132. Indiana residents should call 1-800-233-6135. You also can obtain help from local offices of the Cooperative Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, and vocational agriculture teachers.

The census shows how farmers in each county stand today compared with five years ago — how they are doing compared with farmers in other counties. It provides a picture of the number of farms, farm size, production, sales, and the financial health of agricultural

producers. The agriculture census, an unbiased accounting, gives a clear picture as to changes that are taking place.

This picture of the agricultural production industry is studied by both the public and private sectors to help chart the future. Here are some examples:

- Farm organizations use the facts to plan programs and evaluate legislative proposals.
- Congress uses the census of agriculture data for evaluating and developing legislation.
- Farmer cooperatives use county-level agriculture census numbers to evaluate the need for grain elevators, and other services to farmers and ranchers.
- Feed manufacturers use agriculture census livestock numbers to define their market potential down to the county level and to determine equitable dealer territories.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture uses agriculture census data in estimates of farm income and other economic indicators for the farm sector.
- The Farm Credit Administration uses agriculture census results to formulate and evaluate farmer loan programs.

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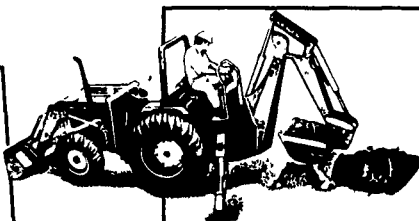
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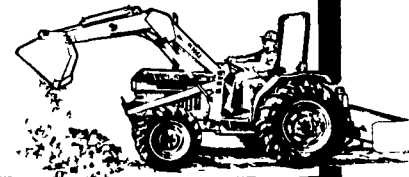


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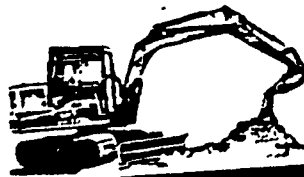
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