

# Teen's Life Is A Tribute To Her Mom And Dad

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**CENTRE HALL** (Centre County) — At this time of year, with the celebration of Mother's Day and Father's Day, those of us who are blessed to be parents are brought face to face with the enormous responsibility with which we've been entrusted. We examine our style of parenting, "Am I pushing her too much?" or, "Am I spending enough time with him?" or, "Does she know how much I care for her?" And then we ponder, "What type of person do I really hope this child becomes?" Recently I met a young woman who embodies those characteristics that I desire for my daughter.

At age 18, Lori Cash demonstrates enthusiasm, ambition, maturity and a caring, "down home" nature. Best of all, Lori attributes the person she's become to her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Erskine Cash.

Lori's dad is a professor of Animal Production at Penn State's main campus. He and his wife raise a herd of 25 Angus cattle on the 40-acre farm they purchased eleven years ago. Lori apparently either inherited from her father or learned by his example the first-rate care for cattle. She and her brother, Chad (now 23), have both shown beef animals since the age of nine.

"Dad has had a big influence on Chad and myself," Lori explains. She quickly added that her father never made her feel compelled to work with their cattle, she said. "I never felt like I had to do it."

But show cattle Lori did, and how she has shown those cattle! Last summer she was the winner of the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest held in Springfield, Mo. At the same time, Chad was president of the National Junior Angus Association, making 1988 a year for Dr. Cash to be quite proud of his children.

With two representatives from every state, the national competition is a stiff one. This modest "show woman" never dreamed she'd claim the honor. She laughs, "I did not expect to do well. I was the youngest one (competitor). A girl seldom wins it." In fact, Lori was the only female in the top five

competitors.

"Through so many years of showing, I have come across so many difficult things that can happen," Lori exclaims.

What is the secret to her showing success? "Dad always told me to be calm," she attests. That placid exterior is a must when a steer you've never laid eyes on is handed to you in the show ring.

To imply that Lori's life centers only on cattle is quite a fallacy, for there is so much more to her than cows. The animal she prefers working with the most is her quarter horse/thoroughbred mare. Lori has shown horses in 4-H for many years, concentrating her efforts on western riding, western pleasure, trail; but most of all, grooming and showmanship. Her show record, here again, is not a shoddy one: in 1985, she was third in the state competition for junior showmanship; in 1987, sixth in the state in the same class. Lori's eyes fill with tears when she says that she will be selling her mare and her two-year old filly in order to start college this year.

Completing her "show string" of farm animals are Lori's crossbred hogs. She has been raising hogs for many years, selling them in the late summer at Centre County's Grange Fair.

For a senior in high school to handle the care and showing of several steers, a horse, and a few

pigs is commendable. Lori rises at 5:30 a.m. daily, handling the feeding and barn chores before catching a 7:30 bus. At 4 p.m., her barn duty is repeated. Her weekends are occupied with clipping, preparing the animals for shows, and the inevitable duties of a farm woman.

Lori's schedule becomes even more astounding to a listener when she gives an account of her high school activities. A member of the National Honor Society, she was vice president of the Student Council at Penns Valley High School this year. She was also president of the Girls' Varsity Club and co-captain of the basketball team.

Basketball has been a real source of accomplishment for Lori, whose team was 22 and 2 this year and made it to finals competition two years in a row. Lori's been a cheerleader since the sixth grade, and this year she won the Poise and Appearance Award in Centre County's Junior Miss pageant. She sings in the school chorus and landed a lead role in her school's annual musical. Lori is also active in her church, singing in the choir and teaching Bible School.

In the '80s we've been deluged with campaigns against the ills of today's youth, but here is a young woman who has resisted those temptations and done so much in her short lifetime. "I like to stay busy," Lori admits with a grin. "I like to keep active and involved and in touch with things."

She explains that her parents required that both she and her brother pay for their college educations. "Mom and Dad said 'you can raise the animals and sell them or get a job,' and I chose this and I'm glad I did. I like it!" she exclaims.

One can only expect the brightest of futures for Lori Cash. She'll be a freshman at Penn State this summer. In keeping with her ambitious attitude she's not waiting to start in the fall! She has strong interests in marketing and communications and she hopes to become active in the Block and Bridle Club and the Equestrian team. "I have no idea where I'll end up or what I'll do," Lori muses. "I do know I'd really like to stay in the country," she adds.

Lori never felt that she missed anything because she was busy at home on the farm. "My best friend



In addition to caring for her steers, horses, and pigs, Lori is active in high school. She is a member of the National Honor Society, student council, and the basketball team. She also won the Poise and Appearance Award in this year's Centre County Junior Miss pageant.



The Cash family also raises Labrador Retrievers. This year Lori sold a litter of eight puppies.



Horses are Lori's love and with them she has won numerous show awards including third in the state competition for junior showmanship.



Lori Cash, an 18-year-old Angus breeder, won the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest last year in Spring-

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shows cattle and pigs," she says. If her other friends want to see her, they visit her at the barn!

By most anyone's standards, Lori's a model young woman. She believes that it's her parents who have molded her into this person who has such a zest for life.

"I attribute it to my mom and dad," Lori says with emotion. "I really feel I owe them a lot. They've inspired and pushed me. When I look back, I'm just thankful they put up with me."

What more could a mother or father ask for?