

Cows That Don't Smell And Don't Eat



Since the beginning of 1989, Deb Obholtzer has marketed more than 100 cows. She claims, "They're low maintenance animals. They don't need feed and they don't smell."

BY LOU ANN GOOD
WRIGHTSVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Who says you need a barn to produce cattle?

Not Deb Oberholtzer. Since the beginning of the year she has produced more than 100 Holsteins in—of all places—her home.

True, they're a bit messy—shedding hair on her carpet and taking up space—but they aren't a bit smelly—at least not to visitors even though Deb swears that she smells cows when working with them.

Her cows aren't registered or classified. They don't give milk, no matter how mature they become. They don't require feed and they don't moo.

What do they do?

They decorate lawns. "Lawn cows," Deb has dubbed them.

No two are alike since Deb places their markings differently each time."

Although others duplicate her efforts, Deb said, "No one else goes into the detail that I put into them." The cows are fitted with stuffed noses and udders and flaunt a full-brushed macrame tail.

The cow-making process

includes the whole family. Husband Rick cuts out the plywood form with a jig saw. He fastens on the metal stakes to insert in the ground so that the cows stand upright.

After she cuts out the material, stitches it on a regular sewing machine and stuffs the forms, the Obholtzers two-year-old and five-year-old help brush the lint off the fur.

The finished product is then sold at Deb's mother's business called "Amish County Furniture" along Rt. 272, 2 miles south of the PA Turnpike exit 21. For more information, call (215) 267-6700. The calves and the smaller cows sell for \$55. The large cows sell for \$89.

"As fast as I can make them, my mother sells them," Deb said.

Considering that lawn cows are her fulltime job, Deb devotes 40 hours a week making to making about 15 to 20 of them. It takes her about 2½ to three hours for the small ones. The large cows with their stuffed udders require seven hours of hand work.

Although Deb has sewed ever since she can remember, her business evolved rather quickly. Last year, when lawn sheep were the

craze, a few people, at her mother's shop, asked if there were cows available. Deb's mother suggested Deb try making one. Deb designed one and after that things took off. Since then, she has changed the designed slightly and added the stuffed udder feature.

The demand was so great that Deb quit her previous fulltime job to fill the orders. She said, "It's much nicer to work out of my home and not need to get a babysitter." But it does create a problem when Deb has an order ready for pick up. Then her two year-old cries because she doesn't want to see any of the cows leave.

Deb who grew up on a dairy farm said that she likes working with her lawn cows better than the real ones. She'd like to make a Guernsey or Angus for special orders.

According to Deb, lawn cows are lots of fun. Owners find them conversational pieces. Passerbys and neighbors find them delightful to gaze at. And occasionally phone calls report a cow has escaped from the barn into the lawn.

For Deb, lawn cows are a profitable business. One made possible by "real" dairy farmers.

Maryland To Hold Beef Festival

Benny Dean and the Southern Rain Country Band, *the Maryland Beef Cook-Off Contest, arts & crafts booths, square dancing and Texas-style dancing demonstrations are among the many featured activities at the First Annual Maryland BEEFestival, Sunday, June 25, from 12 noon to 6 p.m., at the 200-acre "Back Acres" Farm, in Mt. Airy, Maryland.

While everyone's enjoying the live entertainment, educational exhibits and demonstrations, they'll savor the aroma and taste of real Maryland beef rib-eye steak and roast beef sandwiches, barbecue, hot dogs, and more right off the grill. Admission and parking for the Maryland BEEFestival

are free.

The BEEFestival is sponsored by The Maryland Beef Council, The Maryland Cattlemen's Association, and Maryland's Organized Beef Breeds. For further information and directions to the 1st Annual Maryland BEEFestival call 301-831-7991.

* The Maryland Beef Cook-Off Contest winner's recipe will be entered in the Regional Contest. The winner of the Regional Contest will proceed to the National Cook-Off Contest in Portland, Oregon. For further information on the Maryland Beef Cook-Off Contest entry rules and regulations, contact Ms. Anita Wehrman at 301-592-3940.



Lancaster To Hold Pageant

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Three teens will compete for the Lancaster County Dairy Princess title on Saturday, June 17, at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster. The reception will begin at 7:00 p.m. The pageant begins at 8:00 p.m.

Contestants include: Angela Spickler, daughter of James and Linda Spickler of Mt. Joy; Nickelle Wivell, daughter of Joseph and Becky Wivell of Elizabethtown; and Diane Hershberger, daughter of Robert and Martha Hershberger of Quarryville.

See your nearest
NEW HOLLAND

Dealer for Dependable
Equipment and Dependable
Service:

PENNSYLVANIA

Annville, PA

BHM Farm
Equipment, Inc
RD1, Rte. 934
717-867-2211

Hugheville, PA

Farnsworth Farm
Supplies, Inc.
103 Cemetery Street
717-584-2106

Loyersville, PA

Paul Shovers, Inc.
Loyersville, PA
717-789-3117

Beavertown, PA

B&R Farm
Equipment, Inc.
RD 1, Box 217A
717-658-7024

New Holland, PA

A.B.C Groff, Inc
110 South Railroad
717-354-4191

Belleville, PA

Ivan J. Zook
Farm Equipment
Belleville, Pa.
717-935-2948

Oley, PA

C.J. Wonsidler Bros
R D. 2
215-987-6257

Canton, PA

Hess Farm Equipment
717-673-5143

Pitman, PA

Schreffler Equipment
Pitman, PA
717-648-1120

Carlisle, PA

R&W Equipment Co.
35 East Willow Street
717-243-2686

Quakertown, PA

C.J. Wonsidler Bros.
R D 1
215-536-1935

Chambersburg, PA

Clugston
Implement, Inc
R D 1
717-263-4103

Quarryville, PA

C E Wiley & Son, Inc
101 South Lime Street
717-786-2895

Davidtsburg, PA

George N Gross, Inc
R D 2, Dover, PA
717-292-1673

Ringtown, PA

Ringtown Farm
Equipment
Ringtown, PA
717-889-3184

Elizabethtown, PA

Messick Farm
Equipment, Inc
Rt 283 - Rheem's Exit
717-367-1319

Tamaqua, PA

Charles S Snyder, Inc
R D 3
717-386-5945

Gettysburg, PA

Yingling Implements,
Inc
3291 Taneytown Rd
717-359-4848

West Grove, PA

S G Lewis & Son, Inc
R D 2, Box 66
215 869-2214

MARYLAND

Churchville, MD

Walter G Coale, Inc
2849-53
Churchville Rd
301-838-6470

Frederick, MD

Ceresville
Ford New Holland, Inc
Rt 26 East
301-662-4197
Outside MD,
800-331-9122

Hagerstown, MD

Antietam Ford Tractor
301-791-1200

Hamburg, PA

Shartlesville
Farm Service
R D. 1, Box 1392
215-488-1025

NEW JERSEY

Bridgeton, N.J.

Leslie G Fogg, Inc.
Canton & Stow Creek
Landing Rd
609-451-2727
609-935-5145

Honey Brook, PA

Dependable Motor Co
East Main Street
215-273-3131
215-273-3737

Washington, NJ

Frank Rymon & Sons
201-689-1464

Honey Grove, PA

Norman D Clark
& Son, Inc
Honey Grove, PA
717-734-3682

Woodstown, NJ

Owen Supply Co.
Broad Street &
East Avenue
609-769-0308