



Anita Meck romps with her Eskimo Spitz.

Tranquil Scene Belies Whirlwind Of Activity

BY LOU ANN GOOD
REFTON (Lancaster Co.) — Blue Spruce trees line the winding drive that meanders off Beaver Valley Pike to the handsome brick farmhouse of Ken and Esther Meck. Brilliant displays of flowers and huge trees of many varieties accent the neatly manicured lawn. Four Harvestores rise above the neatly painted yellow barns, chicken houses and surrounding cornfields.

This tranquil setting belies the whirlwind of activity stirred up by the Meck's 17-year-old daughter who lives there.

She's Anita Meck, the PA Poultry Queen and a freshman at Millersville University. Her involvement in the poultry industry, FFA, 4-H, studies and community affairs brings schedule conflicts, but Anita does not flinch.

She said, "When I decide to do something, I do my best. My goals might be hard to attain, but I still try."

The petite red head is familiar with hard work and busy schedules. In high school she took not one but three majors—college prep, ag and business.

She said, I wanted to go to college so I needed college prep. Since I lived on the farm, I knew I wanted ag. Plus I wanted a business background because it's needed in daily life."

To accomplish her demanding schedule, Anita had independent

study in business math and accounting.

Explained Anita, "Independent study is when you don't sit in classes, but you take tests and consult with teachers if you need help in studying on your own. To do that, you need ambition and you need to discipline yourself."

It worked out well for Anita who said, "The busier I am, the easier grades come. If I'm not busy, I tend to avoid the situation. Being busy makes me more disciplined."

She made the honor roll all year. She was awarded the Burrows scholar for being the outstanding junior in science. That award has confirmed that she has made the right choice to major in chemistry. She hopes to become a laboratory technician and "to have a little farm because it would be hard not to live on a one."

Anita said, "I tailed my dad around the farm ever since I could walk."

The Mecks raise pullets and steers. Anita's chores include washing light bulbs and water cups and feeding peeps. She also set up an IBM computer program for the farm. And she helps her dad with mailing letters and selling chicken barbecue tickets for the Lampeter Fair.

As poultry queen, she promotes the industry at schools, banquets and parades. She said, "I think the poultry industry has an effective program because they reach all age

groups. I'd like to stress the variety and selection that poultry offers and promote pride in the industry. There's no substitute for eggs."

She has one older sister, Crystal Evans, who Anita credits with teaching her a lot and with helping her with her pageant presentation.

As 4-H secretary, Anita encourages fellow members, "Don't concentrate on winning, but work for the experience. Anita said, "As secretary and committee chairman, it's discouraging trying to get people to work."

For 10 years, Anita worked hard in her 4-H projects. As part of the Red Rose Beef Club, she showed a steer annually at her hometown Lampeter Fair. Last year she was rewarded with a grand champion ribbon.

Anita remarked, "It was an outstanding year. Even if I hadn't won, I'd do it again for the experience. It's a way to getting to know others. It builds self-confidence."

This is Anita's tenth year in 4-H. She said, "In my beginning years as a 4-H member, I had the time, but not the experience. Now I know what to do, but I don't have the time."

Anita sees herself as a person who takes on responsibility and as "fairly outgoing—but not majorly outgoing." She likes responsibility and organization.

She earned the star chapter farmer award at the Lampeter High School Garden Spot Chapter. She was the FFA representative to the Lampeter Fair queen contest where she placed as second runnerup.

That event posed a scheduling conflict, but Anita, being resourceful pulled through. While she was competing for Fair Queen, the steer competition was in process. A friend showed Anita's steer and while Anita answered the judges questions, she kept one eye on the nearby steer competition and learned the steer won grand champion almost simultaneously with her placing.

This year she needs to appear as the state poultry queen at a fair and at the banquet at the same time that she is scheduled to show in 4-H steer competition. "I'll manage somehow," Anita promises. "It may be hard, but I'm going to do the best I can."

She may be a whirlwind of activity, but everything remains under control when Anita is in charge.



PA Poultry Queen Anita Meck has more than her arms full. Her schedule is packed with poultry promotional activities, 4-H, FFA and classes as a chemistry major at Millersville University.

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