

# Mothers On The Farm Reflect On Greatest Challenge

**Sharon B. Schuchman**  
**Maryland Correspondent**  
 Whether they raise cows or sheep, whether they are on a farm of 10 acres or 1000 acres, mothers on the farm face the same challenge as mothers everywhere — finding enough time to spend with their children.

Farm mothers from New York to Virginia and points in between, were asked "what is the greatest challenge to you as a mother on the farm in the 1990s?"

Their children were also asked to describe their mother in just three words. Here is what mom and kids had to say.

**Donna Myers**  
**New Windsor, Maryland**  
 Donna Myers lives on the 150-acre Windsor Manor Farm in New Windsor, Maryland, where she and her husband, Jason, and their two daughters milk 60 cows. They raise hay and small grains to feed their herd of 125 cows, and have lived in their historic stone



Sarah Hafensteiner and her son, Marc, raise sheep on their family's Flemish Bond Farm in Selkirk, N.Y.



Carmen Griffin and her daughters Bobbi, 9, and Jaeme, 11, take a break at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. They raise sheep, llamas, and dogs at their New Jersey Farm in Pine Ridge.



Donna Myers sits on the porch swing of their historic family home on Windsor Manor Farm with daughters, Kristin and Kelly. "Darlene (the dog) thinks she is my third daughter," said Donna.



The Rineharts of Taneytown, Md., from left: Jeena, 8; Sharon, mother; Jodee, 2; Maryland Farm Queen Jenell, 18; and Jenae, 3.



Kathy Patrick's daughters are the fourth generation on the Maryland Maple Dell Farm. From left: Becky with J.R.; Missy, 8; Kathy, and Nicole, 10.

farmhouse for the past seven years.

"I don't think we are any different than any other mothers in the fact that because of economics, all mothers are busy. We all have to make sure our children come first, when our lives are so busy. Being on the farm, I can make my schedule adapt — that's a real benefit."

Donna's daughters, Kelly, 13, and Kristin, 10, said their mother is "considerate, kind and working."

**Carmen Griffin**  
**Whitehouse Station**  
**New Jersey**

Carmen and Charles Griffin and their daughters, Jaeme Lee, 11, and Bobbi Ellen, 9, run 60 head of sheep on two farms. They raise Tunis and Romney sheep, llamas and Maremma guard dogs on their Pine Ridge Farm.

Carmen said her greatest challenge is "spreading my time — giving equal time to children, animals and the house (usually last in the priorities). The kids do a lot, and they are starting to know more than I do as to what to select for show stock."

Jaeme and Bobbi characterized their mother with these three words — "determined, busy, energetic."

**Pat Lehmkuhl**  
**Real Retreat, Virginia**

At Thistleton Farm in Virginia, Pat Lehmkuhl works at her on-farm gallery where she turns out beautiful original oil paintings with a pastoral theme. With 35 sheep and three children, Holly, Jason and Nathan, she has a full schedule.

Pat said that "having enough time to be artistic and work with the sheep" is a challenge to her. She is pleased that daughter, Holly, 13, has "shown an interest in wool and spinning, and I need more time to develop these interests."

Holly said her mom is "nice, caring, and friendly."

**Kathy Patrick**  
**Woodbine, Maryland**

Kathy Patrick is part of the Maple Dell Farm operation which involves 1000 acres. She and her husband, Mike, and their three daughters, Becky, 12, Nicole, 10,

and Missy, 8, milk 200 cows. The girls are the fourth generation of Patricks to continue the dairying tradition at Maryland Maple Dell.

Kathy said that she feels challenged to "teach these guys responsibility, what the farm is about, and where it came from. I want them to understand and appreciate the hard work of generations before them, and to have the same love of the land that their father, grandfather and great-grandfather had."

The girls said they appreciate the fact that their mom "lets us do things like mow the lawn," and also characterized her as "capable and strong."

**Sarah Hafensteiner**  
**Selkirk, New York**

The Hafensteiners raise natural-colored sheep on their 92-acre Flemish Bond Farm, 12 miles south of Albany, New York. Sarah and her husband, Marc, have four

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## Homestead Notes