

Harnish Family Works Together To Meet Deadlines

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) —
It's difficult to tell if Marci Harnish is more excited about the dairy industry or about FFA.

Regardless, one thing is definite: Agriculture is number one in her life.

This recently crowned Lancaster County Dairy Princess credits her parents, Bob and Marti, for inspiring her to become involved in agriculture.

Raised on a fourth-generation dairy farm, Marci had lots of experience with the behind-the-scenes work of a family farm, but she lacked the overall perspective of how agriculture affects society. When she entered ninth grade, her father advised her to try FFA for one year. "If you don't like it, you may drop it," he said.

It took less than one year as a member of the Manheim FFA for Marci to become an avid supporter of the program.

"I did not know about the wonderful opportunities FFA offers. It's a chance for kids to develop self," Marci expresses her appreciation for a program that she says changed her from a shy kid into a confident, outgoing leader.

Her dad shares her enthusiasm for the program although he says that he learned that FFA really stands for "Father Farms Alone."

Laying puns aside, her dad is not complaining. He is quite willing to do more than his share on the family farm while Marci and her older brother Greg, who was a former FFA state officer, participate in many FFA activities.

Her dad said of his high school years, "I had always wished that I could be in FFA, but I did not have that opportunity when I was in school. It was something that I really wanted my children to do."

Marci considers herself fortunate to be part of what she calls one of the best FFA chapters in the state.

"Every year, the class gets bigger and bigger. We have about 80 kids in it. Our advisor, Deb Seibert, is great. Even though she has two children, we (FFA members) are really her kids," she said.

Manheim FFA is number one in the state for activities and has the distinct honor of having one of its members appointed to an FFA state office in each of the past six years.

Marci, who is 17 years old, will be a senior at Manheim Central High School in the fall. She is president of not only her school's FFA but also the county organization. And, like her brother Greg, who is now 21 and a senior at Penn State, Marci hopes she will have the opportunity to become a state FFA officer.

But that accomplishment is months away and in the intervening time, Marci is quite busy representing the dairy industry as the Lancaster County Dairy Princess.

This responsibility means more days away from the family's 90-acre farm and its 50 Holsteins. But, her parents' philosophy is that the family is here for each other.

"We work together to meet deadlines," said Harnish, who began farming while he was still in high school because his father had



The Harnish family at their Manheim farm are Kristen, kneeling; and from left, mom, dad, Marci, and Greg.

a heart condition.

"Things were a lot different back then," Bob said. Then, the family had only 15 to 20 cows. When he married Marti, who was from a non-dairy background, she had what she terms an interesting transition. One time, her husband sat her on a tractor to disc a field. After several hours of discing, she saw an object setting in the middle of the field, and wondered where in the world it came from, obli-

ous to the fact that the culti-packer fell off while she was discing.

In those beginning married years, Marti learned to help with the milking. Milk cans were used and the milk needed to be carried from the barn to the milkhouse. Marti was convinced there had to be an easier way. Her husband agreed, and had a dumping station devised without having a tank.

"No one else did that," Harnish said of the set-up that moved the

milk from the buckets to six milk cans by vaccum. The set-up had to be watched carefully to prevent overflowing, but it saved time and backs, according to the Harnishes. Daily, the milk needed to be hauled to the Mt. Joy Co-op.

In 1972, the Harnishes installed a milk tank, and sometime later, a pipeline with six units.

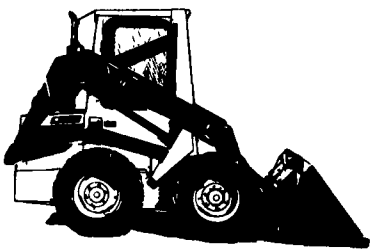
These changes made milking so much easier and faster that Marti

(Turn to Page B7)

LANCASTER FORD TRACTOR

UNDER THE

SIGN OF QUALITY



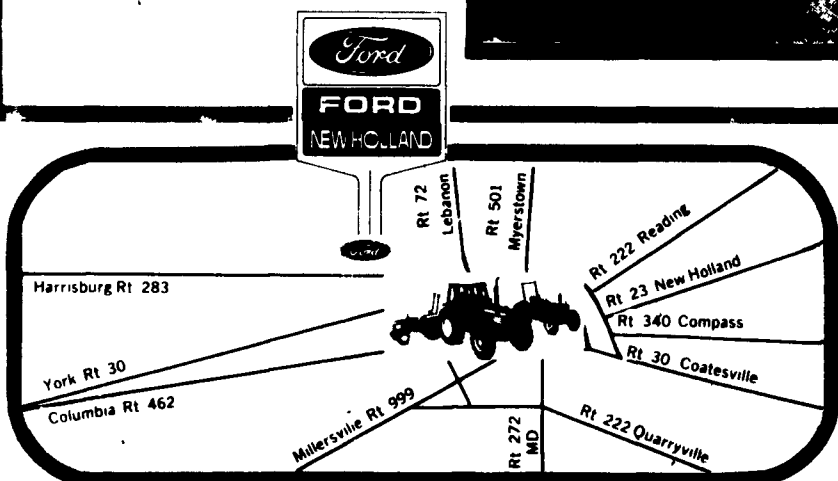
**Quality
Genuine
Replacement
Parts**

**Quality
Factory Trained
Mechanics.
Means Quality
Service For You.**



**Quality
Ford New Holland
Equipment**

- Lawn & Garden
- Farm
- Industrial
- Skid Loaders
- Mowing Equip.
- Landscaping Equip.



LANCASTER FORD TRACTOR, INC.

YOUR LANCASTER COUNTY RELIABLES

1655 Rohrerstown Rd. Just Off Route 283
Lancaster, PA 17601
Phone (717) 569-7063

