

Harnish Family Works Together To Meet Deadlines

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said that she opted to take over total milking duties after their third child Kristen, who is now 14, was 3 years old.

Milking at 5 a.m. and at 4:30 p.m. has been Marti's responsibility ever since, although she now works part time at the Manheim Auto Auction. On the evenings her mother works late, Marci assumes milking responsibilities.

While the women milk, Bob feeds and trouble shoots. These days, the hot weather adds additional problems to Bob's trouble shooting efforts. Fans are run constantly in the barn and the cows are kept inside. Despite these efforts each cow has been dropping 8 to 9 pounds of milk daily.

Recently, Bob had to take total responsibility for the milking because Marci and her mother needed to attend the three-day training seminar in Lycoming County.

It was a learning experience not only for Marci but also for Marti who said, "Those gals (dairy princesses) must know everything!"

Everything includes factual nutritional information, etiquette, animal rightist's arguments, the inner-workings of the dairy industries, and other duties related to dairy promotion.

Although Marci said that so much information was packed into the seminar that there was no free time, she said the seminar was great fun.

She and alternates Jesslyn Oberholtzer and Sherri Bollinger, who assist in dairy promotions, plan to do as many promotions as possible.

"I'm glad I have two alternates helping me," Marci said. "We get along really well and have so much fun doing promotions together."

Marci has attended FFA Leadership Conference and participated in public speaking contests for three years. The first year in FFA, Marci placed first in the state for creed competition. Greg, who was state vice president handed the award to her. Since then, Marci has achieved awards for Greenfield, Chapter, and Red Rose. She has been elected to go to the National Institute of Cooperative Education in Ohio.

Last year her essay on farmland preservation for Farmland Trust won a first place and required her to speak at the organization's annual banquet.

Marci said that her ideas for farmland preservation are influenced by her father.

The Harnish farm was put under Farm Land Preservation last year. But efforts to do so had really begun seven or eight years ago when the idea was unpopular with neighbors. Time has changed attitudes, and Rapho Township, where the Harnishes reside, was put into rural ag zoning without much opposition.

Harnish frowns on farmers who want to sell part of their land. "If you're in farming and can't make it without selling a couple of acres then you better sell the farm to someone who can make it. You aren't a true farmer if you sell for other than farming," he said.

Because Marci plans to participate in the FFA cooperative program this fall, she wants an office



Lancaster Dairy Princess Marci Harnish dishes up ice cream for family members who remind her that serving ice cream is her official duty.

job in ag-related business. It seems like an appropriate training since after high school graduation, she is heading to Penn State University to study ag business. She attributes her aspiring career goal to her brother Greg's influence or rather "brainwashing." Greg is an account executive with PACMA Inc., and a senior studying ag economics at Penn State.

In an effort to fulfill dairy promotion goals, Marci recruits family members to dress up as Buttercup the Cow for some promotions. It's all part of the family's philosophy

of working together to get the job done.

Family members good naturedly remind Marci that as dairy princess it is her job to serve ice cream and other dairy dishes to them. Here is one of the family's favorite recipes using dairy products.

OLIVE CHEESE PUFFS

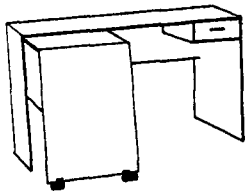
- 2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 36 small pimento stuffed olives,

drained

Mix together cheese and flour. Add butter and work dough with hands if it seems dry. Mold 1 teaspoon of the dough around each olive. Shape into a ball. Place each ball about 2-inches apart in ungreased cookie sheet. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour. Makes 3 to 4 dozen.

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Bake until set about 15 to 20 minutes. Serve or freeze until ready to use and then reheat.

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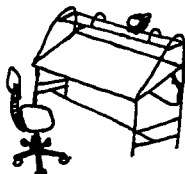
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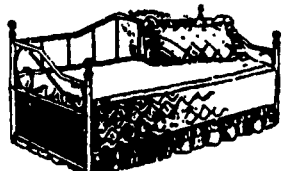
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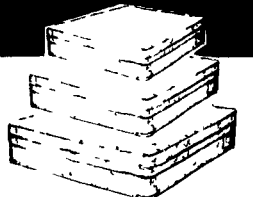


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