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It is not uncommon for parents to arise at 5 a.m. to load livestock, children, and assorted paraphernalia into a pickup truck, unload, spend the day at the fair, reload and deliver both animals and children into their respective beds before hitting the sack themselves around midnight.

Some families enter livestock in as many as 20 fairs annually. The time commitment required is almost like a full-time job. Indeed, it is most difficult to complete gardening, household, and barn chores while attending these events.

Through experience, some

parents like Kendy Allen of Manheim have learned to take work along.

At the 4-H Fair, Kendy sat on the tailgate of her pickup truck shelling lima beans.

"We rush around like crazy getting here and then we have a couple of hours wait for the judging," Kendy said.

She finds it difficult to sit and do nothing especially when there's work to be done at home. So she brings along her Bible for private devotions and lima beans to shell before she makes a return trip to cook supper for her husband, feed the animals in the barn, and then



Kerra's Special Oreo Milkshakes requires a blender and dairy products says Kerra Allen of Manheim.

return to the fair for the evening events.

While 4-H'ers operate the food stands, it's usually the parents who prepare the food and make sure that things run smoothly.

Elaine Craig from Nottingham said that it's been about six years since she has been helping out at the 4-H Fair. She was grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for the Exchange Club to sell. The money raised at this and other fairs and auctions enables members to fly to places such as Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Kansas where they spend a week in 4-H homes in these states. The following year, 4-H members reciprocate by hosting 4-H'ers

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McKenzie prepares her specialty — Ice Cream Cookie Sandwich.



Jeff LeFevre demonstrates how to make homemade vanilla ice cream during the commodity contest.



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