



The goats are as fond of Kristie as she is of them. The black one, she says, is usually shy, but seems to want to get into the picture for this scene.

Teen Does Well In National Goat Competition

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Bedford Co. Correspondent
NEW ENTERPRISE (Bedford Co.) — Kristie Musselman can't remember a time when she didn't have goats.

Her dad, Rick, bought the first one for his then fiance and now wife, Gwen, as an engagement present.

That was more than 18 years ago. Now the Musselmans have more than 40 Alpine and Nubin goats and attend from eight to 10 goat shows a year. Travels have included Ohio, Virginia, and the State Farm Show where they showed the grand champion Alpine.

The highlight of the goat traveling came this year when they attended the National Goat Show in Harrisburg and brought back one blue ribbon and one sixth place.

"Either win was good," says Kristie. "Our first place junior yearling competed in a field of 10. The sixth place pair of kids earned their ribbon among 50 candidates."

"But," adds Kristie's mother, "We think the best in our herd might well be Bubblegum, the grandmother of the class winner and mother of one of the sixth place winners."

Last year, Grandmother Bubblegum took three grand championships out of an available four in an Ohio goat show. Bubblegum is one of five grand champions in the Musselman goat herd.

"Breeding is the key," says Kristie's dad. "You look for desirable characteristics in doing selective breeding and attempt to remove undesirable ones. Things like 'dairy character,' a large body, straight back, high shoulders, and full shapely udders are important."

The Musselmans use both their own bucks and some artificial insemination.

For now, the goats are a hobby and only that. The Musselmans use all of the milk themselves. Each doe can produce approximately 8.6 lbs. per day. "If we were selling our milk we would feed more to get higher production," says Gwen.

Goat milk prices can run from



Kristie Musselman and her first place goat in national competition.

\$4 to \$5 a gallon and the product is in great demand by many on special diets. It is also advocated in some of the latest health diets. "But in order to sell our milk we have to be inspected and have stainless steel milking equipment," explains Kristie.

"And," adds her mother, "We would have to deliver the milk ourselves. Right now they would take all we have at the New Holland cheese factory but, it just isn't financially worth it."

A busy family, Gwen Musselman drives school bus, works as a waitress at Slick's Ivystone, and serves as township secretary. Rick is in the excavating business and Kristie, 16, is a junior at Northern Bedford County High School. She was recently selected as the alternate youth representative for the Pennsylvania Dairy Goats Association. Her school activities include tennis, playing drums in the band, Varsity Club, and Student Council.



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