

State Dairy Princess

(Continued from Page A21)

several little steps rather than one big step when solving problems.

"You need to take ideas and adapt them to your operation," he said.

A case in point is the pole barn that became extremely hot in the summer. One day, Grimes took a crow bar and punched holes in the wall. Now that wall is removed and studded for curtains.

The Grimes raise 90 percent of the small grains needed to feed their herd. They use sawdust in the freestall barn because it is available and economical. The Grimes own a large body truck with a side dump, which they use to pick up the sawdust.

Previously, the family used a tractor and chuck wagon for most of its hauling, but it was too dangerous when pulling out on the highway that borders the Grimes acreage.

"The switch to a truck cut back on manpower and made it much

safer," Ken said.

The Grimes tried round and square bales but are now back to using the regular size.

"Hay needs to be stored inside a building to maintain the quality," Ken said. "We don't have the facility for inside storage and we think the odd-sized bales are awkward to handle with our setup."

Heifers are fed baled hay since the large bales cannot be maneuvered in four-foot alleyways.

Before Jen took on dairy princess responsibilities, she was registered to go to Penn State's main campus. When she was crowned Berks County Dairy Princess, she transferred to the Berks Campus. About one month later, she was chosen as the state princess. She decided that she could not adequately fulfill her dairy princess duties if she continued as a full-time college student.

Her dad said, "I always taught my kids that when taking on responsibility, do the best to your

ability or don't bother at all."

Jen took this advice to heart and dropped out of college to work wholeheartedly in dairy promotion. She said, "I can always go to college later. I have the rest of my life, but I have only one year to be a dairy princess."

Jen is a 4-H member of Northern Berks Dairy Club. She was named champion fitter for two years. As a member of the FFA dairy judging team, Jen helped the team place first out of 13 eastern states two years ago. This past year, the team was first in the state and 15th in national competition.

Jen plans to become a veterinarian. "If I can pass chemistry," she said. Although an honor roll student in high school, Jen said, "I had to work hard to get good grades. I'm not a natural genius."

Jen started high school at Hamburg until it dropped its ag program. She switched to Tulpenhocken, where she was pleased with the variety of opportunities available to those in the ag program. While there, she served as treasurer and

as student advisor.

As an adamant supporter of FFA, Jen had attended meetings where the school board discussed dropping the program from the school district. Jen thinks schools who drop FFA are not openminded enough to research the wonderful preparation available for those who enter speech competitions. The program better prepares students for many ag-related jobs and for running your own business than other high school classes, she said.

Her father sees the necessity of being involved in school board when it comes to course decision-making.

He had been approached about running for school board, a responsibility that he would have liked, but he turned it down because some meetings last until 2 a.m.

"I couldn't see myself being able to get up and milk cows with those hours," he said.

Ken has been a township supervisor for 18 years and was recently

elected to another six-year term. He is also a member of the Lion's Club and the whole family is active in grange activities and the Berks County Farmers Association.

Ken is a past grange master and his wife has held several offices. In 1982, the Grimes family was named Outstanding Grange Family of the Year.

Tree Sale In Progress

CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — The annual tree seedling sale of the Franklin County Conservation District is now in progress.

This excellent stock comes from a state certified nursery. This year's seedlings must be purchased in bundles of 25 per species.

Seedlings offered this year include (with 25/bundle prices in parenthesis): Northwest Scotch Pine (\$6.50), White Pine (\$7.50), Douglas Fir (\$6.50), Colorado Blue Spruce (\$7.00), Norway Spruce (\$7.50), Ponderosa Pine (\$7.50), Concolor Fir (\$9.00), Austrian Pine (\$7.00), Red Maple (\$8.50), and Red Oak (\$14.50). Fertilizer briquettes are also offered at \$2.50 per 25.

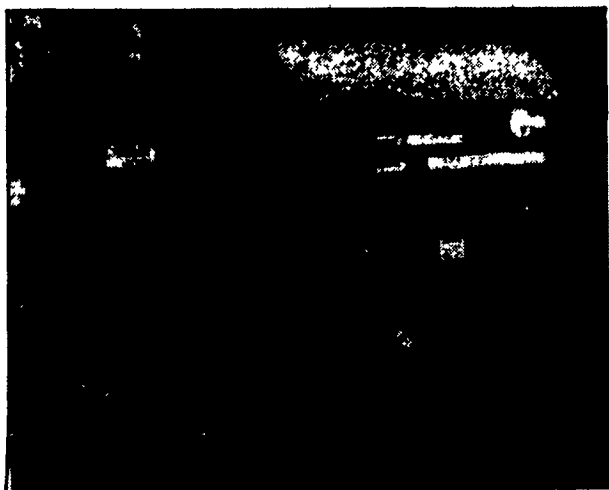
If you are interested in ordering seedlings, contact the Franklin County Conservation District, 550 Cleveland Avenue, Chambersburg, 17201, or call (717) 264-8074 for an order form. Office hours for the district are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

All orders must be prepaid. Deadline for ordering seedlings is January 31.

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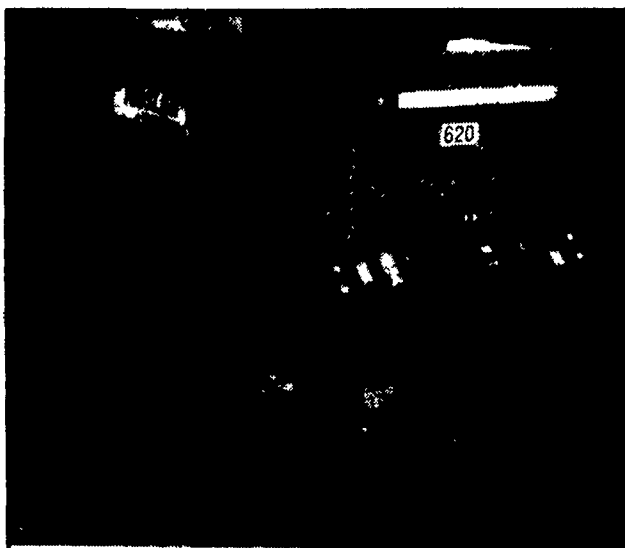
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