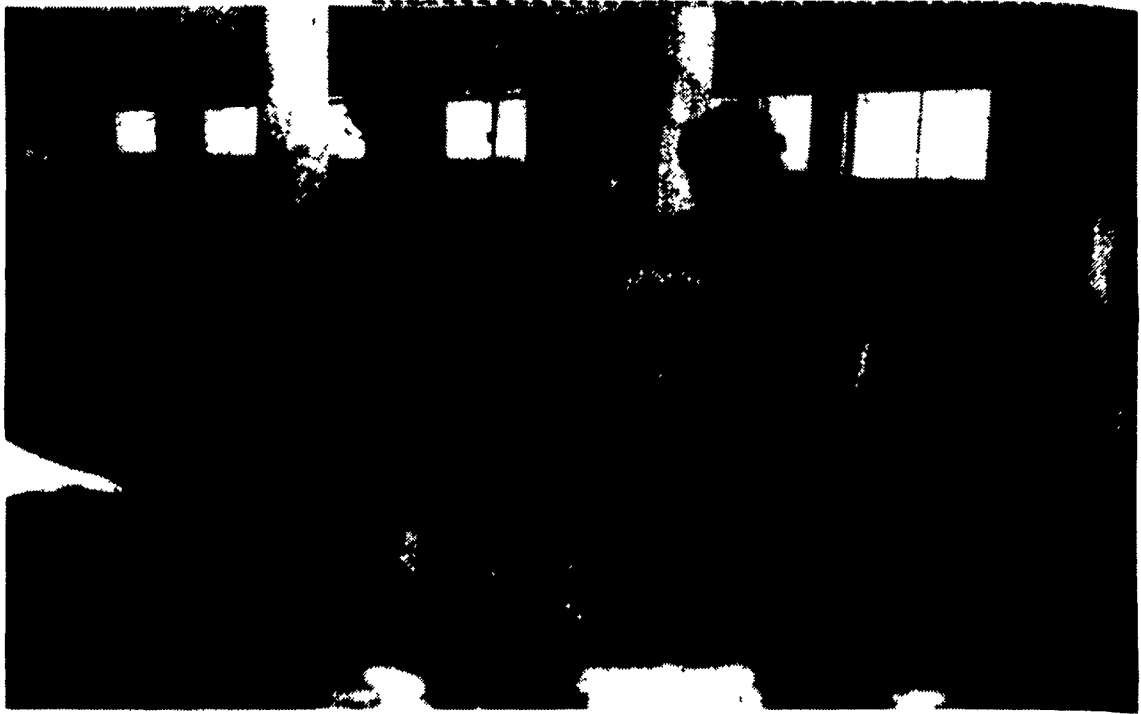


Marian Butler stands on a hand-made wooden bridge on the Pagomar farm.



Marian Butler looks over a pen of replacement calves she is raising.

Butler First Woman On Pa. DHIA Board

(Continued from Page A1)

she held before running for the DHIA seat.

"I've had a general knowledge of the whole association for quite a few years," she said when asked why she wanted to be on the board.

"I felt someone with my experience in having paid technicians and understanding how the technicians are being paid, could be a contribution to the Board.

"You need something in your life as a challenge to look forward to. It is a challenging time and I thought (being on the Board) would be a challenge I would enjoy." She raked a determined hand through her hair as she talked.

"The State Association is fast changing, the whole system will be undergoing changes." She explained how, although many of the counties have merged, they still have their own individual pricing systems. One of her goals is to bring all of the merged counties together under a single pricing system. "We need to bring them together as one group."

Besides her responsibilities with DHIA, Marian works with her husband, Oliver, on the Butler farm, Pagomar (derived from the names of Oliver's parents, Pauline and George, as well as Oliver and Marian). Besides doing the book-keeping, Marian takes care of the cows, works with the vet, and does most of the milking.

Oliver helps milk in the morning and oversees the field work.

The Butlers have a 61-stanchion barn with 61 registered Holsteins and 45 heifers and calves. They raise all their own replacements.

Their program for caring for the cows has evolved over the years. The cows are fed totally in the barn. What pasture the herd gets is purely for exercise, which is done in the morning for lack of shade.

"Last year we were turning the herd out in a field across the road," said Marian. "We used a large sluice which ran underneath the road to get the herd to and from the field. For some reason, our somatic cell count skyrocketed, so this year we are keeping the herd in the barn to see if the somatic cell count can be better controlled."

Their feeding system has also changed as their herds' needs have changed. Ten years ago the Butlers went from using corn silage and hay to haylage with high moisture corn and soybeans. In fact, they were one of the first farms in the county to raise and

roast soybeans for feed.

A TMR cart was added to the farm two years ago. The cows are divided into two milking groups for feeding: 80 to 85 pounds, and 50 pounds. No top dressing is used, but hay is given on the side.

The Butlers own 400 acres and rent another 350. They raise 160 acres of high moisture corn and corn silage, 85 acres of soybeans, 70 acres of alfalfa, 100 acres of hay, and 30 acres of oats. Additives such as proteins and minerals are purchased.

Their herd average is 18,538 pounds of milk, with 3.2 percent or 593 pounds of fat and 3.2 percent or 592 pounds of protein.

The herd is housed in a 50'x150' barn, 50 feet high. Built in 1911, it is a well-known landmark and often the subject of paintings and photographs.

Other buildings on Pagomar include a 40-foot by 96-foot heifer barn, and a 40-foot by 96-foot machine shed with a 24-foot by 40-foot machine shop inside where they do their own repairs.

The Butlers have three children: Scott, 25, a mechanical engineer recently graduated from Temple University; Amanda, 22, another recent graduate with studies in child life at Juniata; and Jason, 14, an 8th grader at the Wellsboro Middle School.

Already, their youngest is quite capable as a farmer who does everything on the farm except combining oats and soybeans.

His mother beams as she talks about her children, especially her younger son, "Jason has had more



Oliver Butler and son Scott prepare a sprayer for field work.

of an opportunity to do a lot more of the farm work, probably because the other two are not home to help."

She said while his plans for the future may include college, she thinks he has a keener interest in the farm than her two older children do, so he will probably come back to the farm to work after college.

"There are cycles in life everyone goes through," Marian said, contemplating her own future. And most certainly, her role in DHIA has spun her in a whole new direction. She said she very much wants to help educate the

public about farmers.

Her eyes sparked with conviction as she spoke. "The farmers are not the culprits. This is coming out finally as evidence in the Chesapeake Bay controversy."

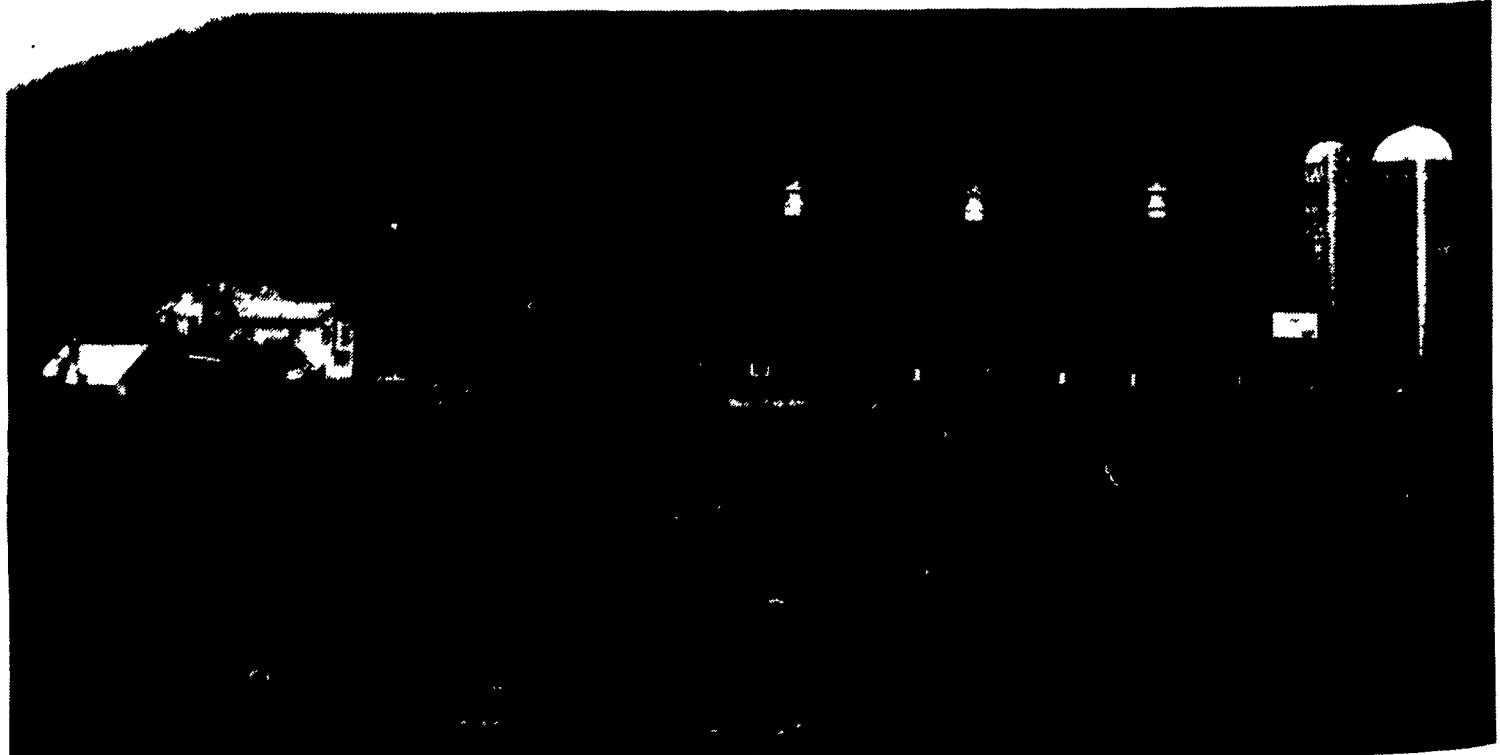
She cites articles in Good Housekeeping and John Deere's magazine as testimony.

"There's are so many laws a farmer has to observe when spraying his fields. And more laws are in the making. A farmer cannot afford to spend any more on herbicides and pesticides than necessary. Yet there are no regulations for those chemicals that are put on golf courses and lawns. And

where do those chemicals go but straight into the sewer. There's got to be a compromise somewhere.

"I just can't think the general public has any concept what the farmer goes through, that we sell wholesale and buy retail. Farming is not a 9-to-5 job where you take weekends off and go to the lake with your boat. If people don't wake up and realize it, there won't be any family farmers left."

She paused and gazed out her kitchen window at her farm, her cause. There is so much that needs to be done. But Marian Butler will do what she can.



The Butler farm's large dairy barn is a local popular subject for photographs and paintings.