



leadership activities, Becky readily credits his mother for her help.

"Phyllis is the single reason I can do the things I've been able to do. She's the kind of person who will give me an honest answer to things I ask her. She's more a friend than a mother-in-law. She helps keep Nevin when I go away. And she's taught me to value time by myself," Becky said with appreciation.

Being a mother to 3-year-old Nevin has made her learn to prioritize in her life, Becky believes.

"I never realized before how much children mimic adults," she said. Smiling, she said, "Nevin is such a miniature of his father."

Along with handling the bookwork for the family's cattle operation, Becky raises the bay calves to weaning. She usually has 15 to 20 calves to milk at a time. Weaning them at several weeks of age, when they're consuming adequate levels of dry feed. Her favorites are the crossbred calves, which she feels gave more durability in comparison to purebreds.

Though both her RULE class and her term as chair for the state's Young Farmers' and Ranchers' committee will soon end, Becky looks ahead to other challenges. She would like to see the YFR group start a state-to-state exchange. She's helping to organize Penn's Agri-Women's annual Ag Day activity at the state Capitol. And, with Nevin headed for kindergarten in two years, she's become interested in the workings of the local school board.

"The whole farming experience," she said, "has changed my life."

Although the Gross' raise calves primarily for their steer fattening enterprise, Becky occasionally grows a heifer calf, like this Angus crossbred.

(Continued from Page B2)

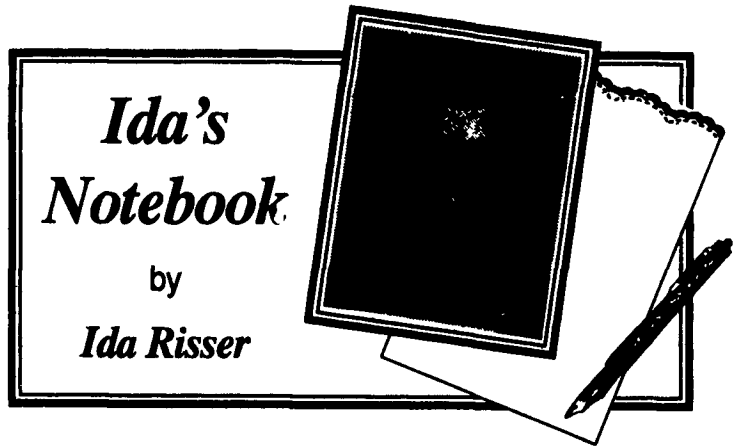
"I went into it without any particular expectations, but I am amazed at the accomplishments of the people who have gone through it in previous classes. I was surprised at how much it taught me.

"Each of these experiences has

left me a better person," Becky said. "If I hadn't found RULE, I probably wouldn't have had the courage to go with the European tour by myself. It's made the biggest change in me as a person."

In addition to citing Steve's support for her involvement in ag

**MILK.  
IT DOES A  
BODY GOOD.**



*Ida's  
Notebook*  
by  
*Ida Risser*

As I sit and mend some clothes and sew on a few buttons, I'm reminded of a job that my mother had many years ago.

My parents started farming in 1919, one year after they were married. Their farm was 55 acres and they had two horses and a cow and a pig plus a few chickens. My father cut a lot of potatoes, by hands to plant the first year.

After the hay was harvested, he decided to put his horses out to eat some of the grass. So, he put a barbed wire fence around the field behind the barn. Well, those horses ran and ran right through the fence. At that time people did not put white strips of cloth on the wire.

Fred ran through into the next field without any more than a few scratches but Ben tore a large flap of skin loose on the underside of his belly.

The next thing my mother knew she was told to get her needle and thread and sew the three-corner of skin fast to his body. Believe it or not, that good tempered horse stood quietly and let her crawl under him to repair the damage. Fred had a different temperament and probably would have kicked her.

I'm surely glad that my husband never gave me a job like that. But, my son did the same thing for his dog when he was hit by a tractor. Jeffrey got needle and thread and sewed the loose skin fast to the rest of the coat on the Irish Setter. At least that was not as bad as when he had to have loose skin sewed to his own head. You see, his heifer dragged him and he was determined not to let go of her. That was one of many escapades that he had.

## Time-Smart Planning

Spending a little time each week planning meals can save time and money at the grocery store, and put more nutritious meals on the table faster. Here are some guidelines to help the process. They may sound simple, but you will be amazed by how much time they can save!

**\*Learn to love lists.** Prepare your shopping list at the same time you plan a week's menus, noting package and can sizes whenever possible. Keep an on-going list on the refrigerator so you and others can jot down items as they're used up.

**\*Note menus your family really likes and save them.** Soon you'll have a good collection of family favorites that'll make your meal planning easier and faster.

**\*Before you go shopping, check your newspaper for advertised specials and coupons.** Note these, with brands and places, right on your list. But remember, don't buy something just because it's on sale: it's never a bargain if you don't use it, no matter how low the price.

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