



Boiling Springs farm wife and artist Debbie Cornman displays some of her work, including her design for the logo for the 1995 National Holstein Convention.

## Artist And Farm Wife Debbie Cornman

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BOILING SPRINGS (Cumberland Co.) — If you went to the 1994 State Holstein Convention in Gettysburg, chances are you saw some of Debbie Cornman's work.

You really couldn't miss it because Debbie, who lives near Boiling Springs, designed the logo for the convention. That symbol consisted of a cow's head with some picket fences.

Debbie's work was so well received that she has been commissioned to do the logo for the 1995 National Holstein Convention scheduled for June 25 to 28 in Pittsburgh.

That logo will again feature a cow's head over an outline of the state of Pennsylvania, Debbie said. She said the whole thing will have the word "PRIDE" written across it.

Her work on the logos is really symbolic of her life as an artist and a farm wife. There also is a good deal of natural talent in the mix.

Debbie's art started in 1973 when she took calligraphy, which is a form of decorative writing. She learned how to do it on her own.

"Basically, I am self-taught," Debbie said.

In 1978, she began adding oil painting to her range of work and maintained her focus on doing portraits of animals.

She finally took her first painting lessons in 1980 when she and

her husband, Steve, were living and farming near Fresno, Calif. It was during that time that Debbie was introduced to tole and decorative paintings, which she enthusiastically added to her list of skills.

Debbie, Steve, and their daughter, Becky, returned to work on Steve's family farm near Boiling Springs in 1981. A son Aaron was born later. Debbie began teaching art classes for local adult education programs and area craft shops.

Throughout all this, Debbie and her family have been very active in local farming and Cumberland County 4-H activities.

On their dairy farm, they manage 70 head of animals, with a mix of Milking Shorthorns, Jerseys, Brown Swiss, and Holsteins. They farm approximately 100 acres.

Becky, who is 13, and Aaron, who is 10, are members of the Cumberland County 4-H Dairy Calf Club and own several animals themselves. They show at several local fairs and also at the All-American Dairy Show and the State Farm Show.

Debbie is the organizational leader of the 4-H Flying Fingers Club in the county. The group is a multi-purpose club that can take on a variety of projects. She organized it five years ago.

Debbie also has been a Sunday School teacher for 10 years and has been a member of the Farm Women Group 23 for 11 years. She has been a president and vice

president of that group, and is currently its corresponding secretary.

All those duties have not kept her away from her art, however.

She still teaches art classes during the spring, fall and winter sessions of the South Middleton Township Park and Recreation Department.

She taught decorative painting and calligraphy last year and started youth drawing classes. Debbie said she has a lot of repeat students who really enjoy the classes and want to keep improving on their painting skills.

Her calligraphy classes seem to be particularly popular since they draw many new students each session.

Not all of her artwork is tied to agriculture. She has taken her tole paintings to local craft shows add has a home calligraphy business doing documents like wedding certificates, graduation certificates, and birth announcements.

She gained some added notice in her community in 1993 when she did pen and ink drawings for sale during the well-attended Foundry Day festival held every year in Boiling Springs.

Debbie's time has become even more limited in recent months because she has returned to working full time off the farm.

That can put a crimp in her schedule at times, but Debbie said she will always find at least a few moments to do what she enjoys the most—drawing and paintings.

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