



Harry and Annette Buck with Stephanie, 16; Jarod, 14, and Kathryn, 10, Holsteins and tills 150 acres that has been in Harry's family since the 1920s. work together on the farm and off the farm. The family milks about 60 grade

Family Togetherness Prevails At Buck Farm

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Some families set priorities. Some drift along and deal with things as they happen. The Buck family in

Lebanon have their own unwritten list of priorities but remain flexible enough to adjust to the ebb and flow of living.

The close-knit family embrace many projects together — from

farm work to community and church activities.

Harry and Annette and their three children — Stephanie, 16; Jarod, 14, and Kathryn, 10, — farm 150 acres and milk about 60 cows.

"I've lived here all my life," Harry said of the farm that his family purchased in the 1920s.

The bank barn was built in 1822 and Harry surmises the house was probably built at the same time. Since then several buildings have been added including a dairy barn built in 1971. Two Harvestores were added six years ago and a silo for high moisture corn about 18 months ago.

"We try to keep debt down by saving enough money before making purchases," Harry said. "That often means putting things off before we make changes."

His wife said that waiting gives her plenty of time to research ideas. She waited many years for a new kitchen, but considers it worth the wait.

The former kitchen was located in a small enclosed porch. About three years ago, the Bucks added onto the house and the spacious kitchen now has plenty of windows, a skylight, and light oak cupboards with lots of counter space.

"I went to a lot of open houses to get ideas," Annette said.

She enjoys going to auctions and picking up several pieces such as a large sideboard that fits in the combined dining and sitting area off the kitchen. A wooden box with dried flowers, collectibles, and handicrafts by several family members add interest to the room. Stenciled cows on the white walls, a cow motif tablecloth and afghan, and numerous other cow artifacts are found throughout the home.

Annette said, "I thought we had enough cows outside without having them in the kitchen, but several people gave us some (cow memorabilia) and now we are into cows (inside)."

As members of Atlantic Dairy



As a Lebanon County Dairy Maid, Stephanie often assists with dairy promotional events. Her favorite promotions are telling kids about the goodness of milk. To reinforce the message, she often hands out "Real" stickers like the one she places on her sister Kathryn.

Cooperative, the Bucks always shoot for the 20-cent bonus paid for quality milk and are pleased that they usually achieve it.

So much of producing quality milk hinges on the somatic cell count. Harry finds it fascinating to try to figure out why the somatic count sometimes goes up for no

apparent reason and then drops even though they don't do anything differently.

His interest in the count fluctuations began in 1969, while working on the farm for his dad. Harry had read an article on research that showed somatic cell counts drop-

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Homestead Notes



As dairy promotion coordinator for Lebanon County, Annette often works with her daughter in preparing dishes that include real dairy products.



Stephanie prepares her calf Jewel for 4-H competition shows.