

Family Togetherness

(Continued from Page B2)

ping after teat dipping milking and dry treating cows.

"I wanted to try it because it sounded promising. Dad was a bit skeptical at first. But he soon saw a big difference with less mastitis and higher milk production. We've been continuing the practice ever since," Harry said of the family's priority to keep somatic cell count down.

"Last month we had it down in the 80 range, and we're trying to figure out what we did differently," Harry said.

"The only thing we can figure out is that we've been keeping the cows on their feet longer during milking time by feeding them more before milking."

The difference in feeding practice requires Annette to man the milkers longer. But the city-girl turned loyal dairy farmer loves working with the cows.

She said, "I wouldn't want to go back to the city."

Before the two married, Harry wanted Annette to know what she was getting into. So she learned to milk cows before she said, "I do."

Fortunately for both, Annette liked the cows so much that within two months of marriage, she quit her hospital job to become a full-time farmer.

From the beginning of married life, Harry and Annette lived on

the family farm. The house had been used as a two-family residence off and on throughout the years. Within a few years of Harry's and Annette's marriage, Harry's parents built a house on the farm land. Since then, the Bucks have switched the two-family farmhouse dwelling into a one family. Every couple of years, they remodel a room.

Although there were six siblings in Harry's family, Harry said that he was fortunate to take over the family farm.

He said, "I was the one with the most interest in farming."

Alfalfa, corn, wheat, and soybeans are crop farmed. Seasonal grazing is used on a large pasture that has a creek running through it. Otherwise the cows are fed a total mixed ration with corn silage and high moisture corn.

"We only started using high moisture corn about one and a half years ago. We saw an immediate increase in milk production," Harry said of the cows average of 21,400 pounds.

All grade cows are used except for the children's 4-H dairy projects.

Annette and Harry do all the field work and the morning milking. A hired man helps with the evening milking.

Both Stephanie and Jarod help with the milking and calf feeding.

Even 10-year-old Kathryn helps by giving the calves a bottle.

While the girls like the cows, their brother prefers field work.

Stephanie has been showing cows for four years at local shows. A 10th grader at Palmyra High School, she cannot participate in FFA or vocational agriculture because the school does not offer it. She is thinking about switching to another nearby school that does offer the course, but that school's commitment to agriculture is shaky and Stephanie fears the program will be eliminated after she makes the switch.

Her extra-curricular activities include soccer and band. Stephanie and Jarod are Junior Holstein members. And, after seven years of piano lessons, Stephanie now teaches piano.

Her duties as dairy maid requires about one promotional event weekly.

As a member of the Dairy Bowl team, Stephanie was delighted to be a part of the Lebanon County team that placed third in the state this year. The team practiced twice weekly and required a lot of studying.

"I think my grades — especially Spanish — suffered a bit until the Dairy Bowl season was finished," Stephanie said.

After accomplishing the Dairy Bowl victory, Stephanie quickly



Calling themselves, "cat lovers," Stephanie and Kathryn take a break to nuzzle their favorite cats.

made Spanish studying a priority and her grades reflect it.

In 4-H, Stephanie and her siblings are members of both the NoSoAnn Dairy Club and the South Mountain Club.

Annette taught 4-H cooking for six years and now teaches photography.

She said, "You don't need to be an expert on a subject to teach because 4-H has really helpful books."

To help educate the non-farming community, Stephanie and a friend prepared a video tape for a school project. She taped a cow having a calf. The calf's legs were twisted so on the video Ste-

phanie explained why her father needed to straighten the legs so the calf could be delivered. The video included a tour of the farm.

For her video, a favorite by classmates and teachers, Stephanie received the highest grade in the class.

In addition to Stephanie's versatility with dairy, music, dairy bowl, Stephanie also claimed best of show at last year's Lebanon Fair for a decorated cake.

Stephanie has her career sights set on farming.

In addition to 4-H, Jarod plays baseball for a Little League team and is a member of Junior Holstein Club.

Kathryn has been playing community soccer for four years. She also plays flute in the school band and enjoys ceramics and photography, both learned in 4-H.

Dairy promotion plays a big role (Turn to Page B5)

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