

Deb Landis Is New Poultry Ambassador

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eggs by studying the stacks of information handed to her.

Her first official appearance for the industry was at the Solanco Fair on Wednesday.

The 17-year-old daughter of Dick and Jean Landis lives in Neffsville. She was born in Michigan, lived in Australia for a year, and has been abroad numerous times.

A senior at Lancaster Mennonite High, Deb plans to spend her summer on a mission outreach to Africa or Haiti. In the fall, she will study sociology and communications at college. Although the specific school at this point is not defi-

nite, she leans toward Eastern College in St. Davids. Her career goal is to work overseas in mission work and possibly write.

"My parents have been a big influence on me," Deb said of her interest in missions and her number one priority of developing a relationship with God.

Deb's father is a professor for the Penn State Hershey Medical Center. It was his job that brought the family to Lancaster County when Deb was in fourth grade.

After finishing the eighth grade, Deb and her family, which includes a brother Nathan, now 19,

spent six weeks in Europe.

"It was one of the best summers of my life," Deb said.

It piqued her interest in the French language. Since then, Deb studied high school French for three years and continues to take private lessons from a native-French-speaking woman.

One summer, Deb spent two weeks in the home of a Paris pen-pal.

"The biggest shock was that we couldn't communicate at all in the beginning," she said.

Another shock was to have strangers greet her by kissing her on both cheeks.



As the poultry ambassador, Deb Landis will be a spokesperson for the poultry industry to the non-farming community.

After the initial cultural shock, Deb was intrigued by the artists, painters, and street acts that fill the Paris streets.

Her pen pal reciprocated the visit by spending a few weeks in Deb's home.

"She was shocked by the Amish lifestyle and surprised at how inexpensive T-shirts and brand-name sneakers cost here compared to her country," Deb said.

This past summer, Deb attended the National Young Leaders Conference held at the American University for 11 days in Washington D.C.

The conference was attended by people from all over the U.S. and from other countries.

Deb was surprised to learn how much the students from foreign countries knew about the workings of the U.S. government.

This summer Deb also attended a youth convention in Kansas and spent a few days in Boston checking out colleges with a friend.

"We also tried escargo and squid. It wasn't too bad tasting if you got past the idea of eating snails," Deb said.

Deb enjoys cooking and baking — "gourmet things," she said. She also likes to add a special flair to dinner entertaining. Recently, she and a few friends held a small dinner theater in which they spoke French and dressed in full garb by enacting a play by Shakespeare.

She believes that meeting people from so many diverse places was good practice for her new role as the poultry ambassador.

"I'm not quite sure what to expect as the poultry ambassador, but I'm looking forward to the ag in the classroom sessions," she said. These sessions will require Deb to visit schools around the county and acquaint the students with the poultry industry.

At school, Deb is the student life and faculty editor for the yearbook, a member of the National Honor Society, and a member of a Student Bible Study. She participates in school plays and hopes for a role this year.

She volunteers at the Water Street Rescue Mission where she works with the kids program. She is also a student leader and plays the piano for the praise band at the Neffsville Mennonite Church.

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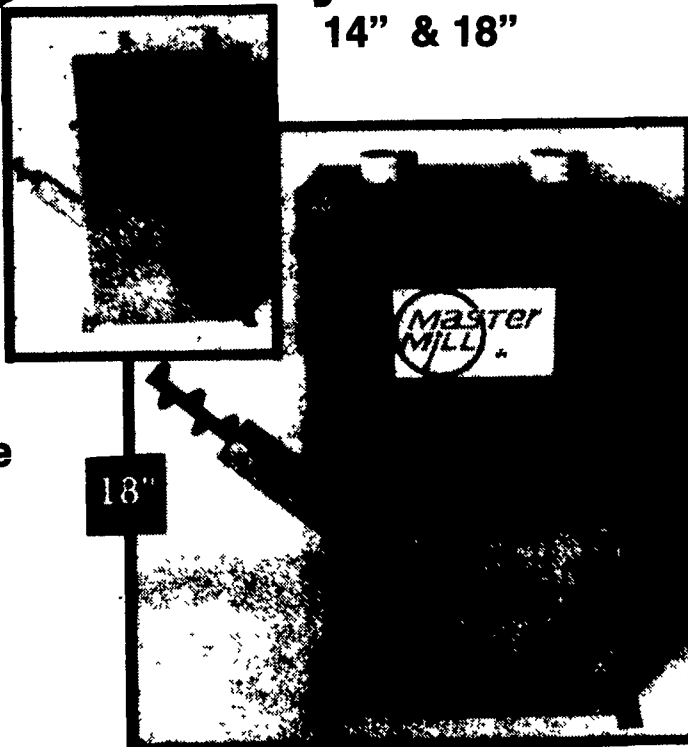
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