

# Frey Family Adds Another Venture To Their Livestock Repertoire

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**QUARRYVILLE** (Lancaster Co.) — Tucked away in the outskirts of Quarryville is the 800-acre Twin Oaks Farm, where purebred Angus roam hills scattered with woodland, meadows, and meandering streams.

Just like the cowboys in the West, Fritz Frey rides a horse to rope calves and corral the 200 head of cattle.

"I like nature. It's in my blood. I was born into it," Fritz said of the cattle operation that his dad Fred and two uncles own. Although the farm has both dairy and beef operations, Fritz sticks with the cattle.

"It's a challenge to keep up with the industry and the changes. When you're into breeding, you've got to be a leader, a fore-runner. It's a big game to figure out ahead of time what people will want," Fritz said of the breeding program.

Fritz finds it intriguing to watch how positive traits are passed on through the generations by selecting the right bulls.

One of Twin Oak Farm's best known bull was the 1980 reserve national champion bull, whose semen was sold all over the U.S.

Fritz said that his dad has been breeding bulls since the 1940s. Fritz was first pictured in the newspaper when he was only two or three years old with one of the farm's bulls. He traveled the show circuit for years.

"I didn't have time to go on many vacations, but I got all over the U.S. by showing cattle," Fritz said. He had a bit of a claim to fame when he was pictured showing a heifer on the 1983 100-Year Angus Calendar. The picture was picked up and used by many companies as a stock photo.

The farm is with the Certified Angus Program, which pays a premium for meeting strict standards regarding color, carcass size, marbling, data, etc.

Most of the Freys' Angus are sold to Dakota and Nebraska markets, consignment sales, and a few locally for show steers.

The farm is doing more intensive grazing than in previous years. Fritz said, "You got to adjust management practices to the times."

To raise efficient-type cattle, the

Angus are raised like Western cattle in which they are strictly pastured in the the summer, fed hay in the winter, and offered salt and mineral free-choice.

"We find its important to offer salt and mineral choice for hair coats, fleshing, and to prevent sore eyes," Fritz said.

Although at 8-years of age, Fritz tried to train his first horse for cattle duty, he found the horse too hard to handle. For many years, he used a motorcycle to make the rounds. But in 1989, he purchased a horse trained in Kansas for cattle roundup purposes and continues to use that horse.

"She's smart. She knows what to do, and cattle respect a horse. A horse can do a lot of things that you can't do with a truck," Fritz said.

"I've never been hurt, although I've been banged around a lot," Fritz said of maneuvering cows that are protective of newborn calves and bulls that are protective of their territory.

The Freys' home is surrounded by pasture where they can keep an eye on the cattle. Sometimes new cattle are added to the herd.

"Whenever you put a new one end, it creates a pecking order. Sometimes the pecking order is settled in a few hours and sometimes it stretches on for days," Frey said.

The Freys' children, Katrina, 5, and Freddy, 2, enjoy watching the cattle push each other down the hill during snow storms. The two children own several head of cattle and sheep.

While Fritz grew up in beef circles, his wife-to-be Nancy grew up on a sheep farm. Nancy's parents, Joan and Bill MacCauley of Atglen, were raising Suffolks on their Breezeview Farm. Nancy soon became well known in sheep show circuits by showing the Suffolk breed.

Although both Fritz and Nancy were active in 4-H, she was from Chester County and Fritz was from Lancaster. They met as competitors in the Junior Livestock Judging Teams. Fritz's team won one year, Nancy's won the next year. Nancy was president of her FFA and the Chester County 4-H, and Fritz of the Lancaster club.

When they were 17-year-old, Fritz went to Louisville, Kentucky to compete on a livestock judging



Well-known in sheep and Angus circles, Fritz and Nancy Frey have added another venture to their livestock repertoire. The Quarryville couple recently introduced Frey's Show Supply, a catalogue supply service for cattle, sheep, swine, and horses. Katrina and Freddy like riding up and down on the sheep fitting stand that Fritz designed and a local company manufactures.

team, and Nancy went to Kansas City with the FFA team.

The separation showed them how much they missed each other, and the two began dating.

After Nancy graduated from nursing school, the two married. Because they had enjoyed 4-H, they both dedicated time to the program. Nancy is a leader for the 4-H Woolies Club since 1989. Fritz helps with that and is a board member of the Pennsylvania Angus Association.

Because the members constantly need halters, Fritz became adept at making the halters, which he also supplied wholesale to a local store. When that store went out of business, Fritz picked up the slack with more retail business. He also designed a sheep fitting stand, which is a jack stand that he calls "Easy Lift."

"I saw the need for a better sheep fitting stand, so I took my

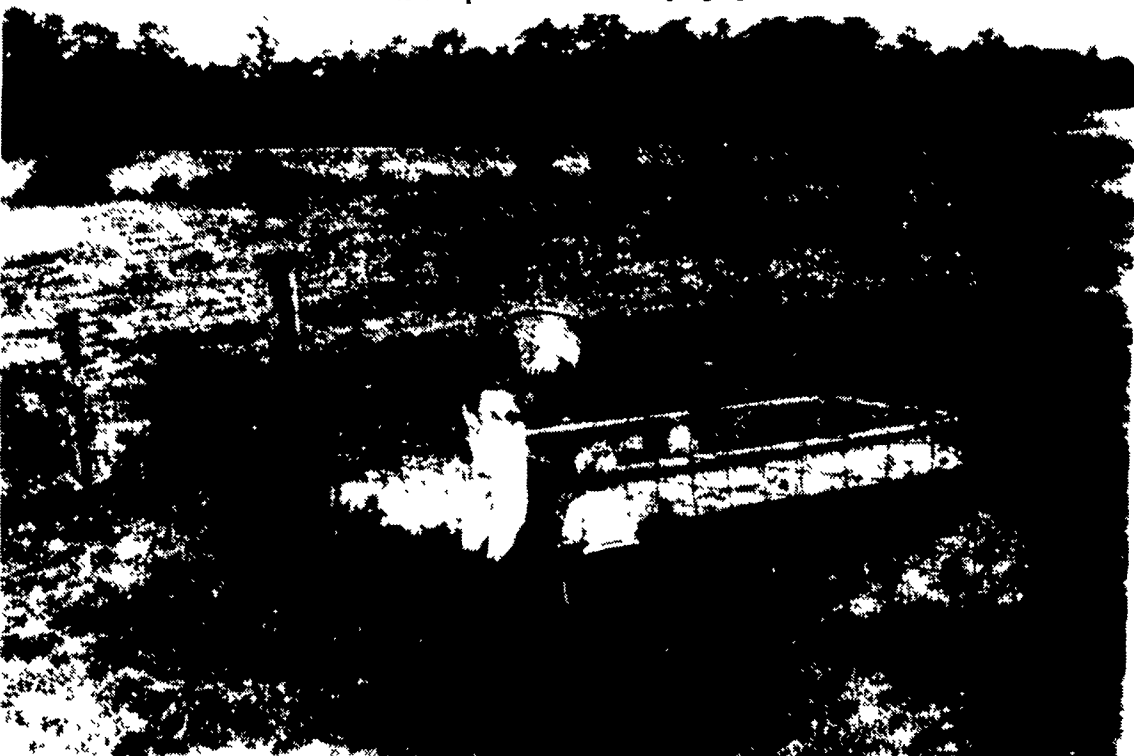
(Turn to Page B16)



Fritz sharpens livestock blades and engraves names on show supplies for exhibitors.



For years, Fritz had been making halters and selling them to 4-H'ers. Now he hauls the halters and other livestock supplies in this trailer to fairs and shows.



In their backyard, Katrina and Freddy like to feed hay to the cattle. The two own some cattle and sheep. Although only 5-years-old, Katrina has been able to show sheep at some shows and is looking forward to doing more showing of sheep and eventually cattle.