

# Ida's Notebook

by  
Ida Risser



When I get together with my sisters, I hear about the trips they have taken and the trips that are planned. They go to the New England states for the fall foliage and also take big bicycle trips. They talk of the 500 miles they have put on their bicycles. Of course, they are all younger than I am.

It seems that Allen and I can keep ourselves too busy right here at home. He helps to fill silo, put up new spouting and sometimes he does tractor work too. I cook meals, clean house and mend clothes besides some church work.

Yesterday I potted several parsley plants as I like some on the kitchen windowsill for winter use. And, I arranged the straw flowers, that I raised, in a small basket with some pretty leaves that I dried. My eight kinds of flower bulbs are stored and labeled. Although, I'm sure that I would know them by their shape in the spring when I replant them.

When I find the time, I reread old letters that relatives wrote in the early 1900s. It is interesting to

look at the postcards that were exchanged. No telephones and no autos and so cards were sent and trolleys used for transportation.

I've written a diary every day since I was 17 years old. And, would you believe it, I find it is quite interesting to read about our activities when our children were young. How we managed all of those 4-H meetings I do not know as one or the other always had something to do or a place to go. As they say, it makes me tired just to read about those years.

Today a busy day is when our three grandchildren come and stay with us for a while.

## Penn's Agri-Women Elect Officers

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Penn's Agri-Women elected officers recently at their annual meeting and set an agenda for the coming year.

For the first time ever, PAW will man a booth at the state Farm Show for a full week featuring the American Agri-Women display that shows the areas of activity and their presence in 35 states. Officers will be creating a new brochure for membership purposes and will be dedicating the efforts to the memory of a founding mother Ethel Gross, who with a handful of women began PAW in 1977.

Leading the organization into its 20th years will be president Gail McPherson, New Park; vice president Jean Beck, Hamburg; secretary Carol Ann Gregg, Grove City; and treasurer Barbara Grumbine, Myerstown. Past President Pat Sueck, Ariville will also serve on the Executive Committee.

## Agri-Women Appointed To EPA Committee

MISSION, Texas — American Agri-Women, a national coalition of farm, ranch and allied business individuals and organizations has been appointed to the newly formed Environmental Protection Agency advisory committee for the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. The new law will fundamentally reform the nation's outdated Delaney zero risk standard in terms of pesticide tolerances, and utilize science based, state of the art testing to strengthen the U.S. food safety net. AAW President Jean Pettibone, of Kanorado, Kansas, is representing AAW as one of the production agriculture groups on the committee. The Food Quality Protection Act was signed by President Clinton on August 3, of this year after passing in both Houses of Congress unopposed.

Jean Pettibone stated, "It took

more than 10 years of concentrated effort to get this new legislation passed by the Congress to update the standards for food safety. The hard work really begins as we work with EPA and the members of the committee to interpret the true intent of the legislation, as well as to ensure that it will be soundly based on the latest scientific standards to secure our nation's safe food supply. Critical

to the purpose of the committee will be the protection of our precious natural resources from which every farmer relies upon to make a living and to assure that it is workable for our nation as a whole."

For more information regarding AAW, contact Jean Pettibone at (913) 399-2204 or at 6835 Road 2, Kanorado, Kansas 67741-9400.

## Research Supports Correlation

The genetic correlation between marbling and beef tenderness is supported by four recent research projects. Three of them were conducted by scientists at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, and the other by Oklahoma State University researchers. Readers need to understand a

few terms before reviewing the results of the research. Following are the definitions:

**Tenderness:** The difficulty or ease a trained taste panel has in chewing a portion of steak. The genetic component involves the animal's ability to marble, level of calpastatin or enzyme activity, and the amount and kind of connective tissue; whereas the environmental component involves cooking techniques and the amount of aging to which the carcass has been subjected.

**Shear Force:** Machine measured pressure required to force a shaft through a portion of cooked steak.

**Heritability:** That portion of a trait passed from parent to offspring.

**Marbling:** The amount of fat interspersed with the lean in the rib eye muscle. The genetic component involves the steer's genetic ability to marble plus the environmental component involving how he was fed and handled.

**Correlation:** The relationship between two traits. The range in correlations is from -1.0 to +1.0 with zero meaning no relationship and 1.0 depicting a perfect relationship.

a. Genetic Correlation: The genetic relationship between the genetic components of marbling and tenderness.

b. Phenotypic Relationship: The sum of the relationship between the total components both genetic and environmental, between marbling and tenderness.



Penn's Agri-Women officers, from left, are Jean Beck, Carol Ann Gregg, Barbara Grumbine, Gail McPherson, and Pat Sueck.

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