

Farm Show Competition Means More Than Ribbons

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"You've got to start from day one with steers," he said. "The older a steer gets the more unruly it becomes and you can get hurt if you haven't been working with it," he said.

Jason knows from experience the importance of working with a steer as soon as possible. One year, he purchased a steer that was older and it was impossible to tame. He forfeited showing the steer because of its wildness even though it was in excellent condition.

The good and bad is taken in stride and nothing is taken for granted. Jason recalls that one of his steers went crazy one year and

ran up the alleyway in the barn. This startled the ram who tried to escape out a window. Instead it cut the main artery on its leg and bled to death.

Another year, Jessica was showing her steer which took a first at Manheim and from there went to KILE. "I thought, he looked a bit shaky, but he won a first in the class."

Later the vet prescribed penicillin. The steer broke out in blisters around the tail. The vet thought he was allergic to the adhesive used to prepare the hair for showing.

Although Jessica took the steer home and thought it was recuperating, a few weeks later the steer stopped eating and staggered. It went blind and needed to be put to

sleep.

Jessica cried. "He was so docile," she said.

Since then, she has never used that spray.

Another steer was out in pasture. The morning before 4-H Roundup, the steer was found standing in the driveway, its left foot dangling.

"It was the best steer, we ever had," both Jessica and Jason said of the steer that never had a chance to prove its worth.

Fortunately they each raise two steers and the other was readied for showing.

"The replacement steer did better than I expected and got reserve champion," Jason said.

The whole family has nothing

but the highest praise for county 4-H clubs.

"Lancaster County is a good, clean club. Everyone helps each other," Jason said.

His dad said, "For me, it's a real joy to participate in a county where we have one of the best livestock extension agents (Chet Hughes). We do not see battling between families and clubs like some do in other areas."

Frank was a former 4-H club leader but needed to give it up because of his work duties. He is chairman of the sheep committee for the E-town Fair.

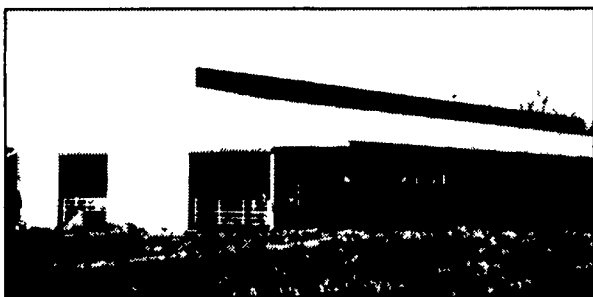
At Elizabethtown High School, Jessica is on the basketball and track teams and is a member of student council and of varsity club.

When Jessica heads for college, she hopes to continue to supply sheep to kids in 4-H programs.

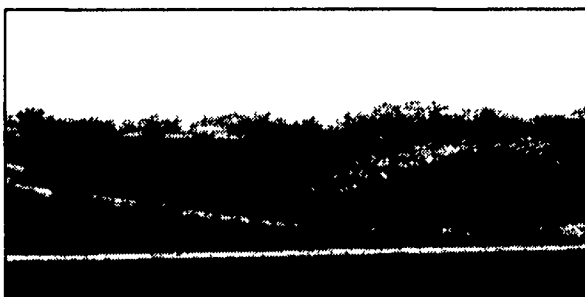
Jessica and Jason are active in the youth group at the E-town Brethren in Christ Church. Jessica is part of the youth group choir which does some touring. Her brother operates the sound system for the programs.

It was this involvement that steered him in the direction of majoring in communications with an emphasis on television and video repair. After two years at Messiah College in Gratham, Jason will study at Temple University at the Messiah campus in Philadelphia. He is part of a work-study program on campus where he operates sound for campus events.

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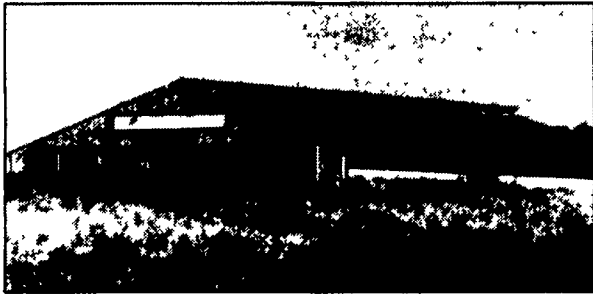
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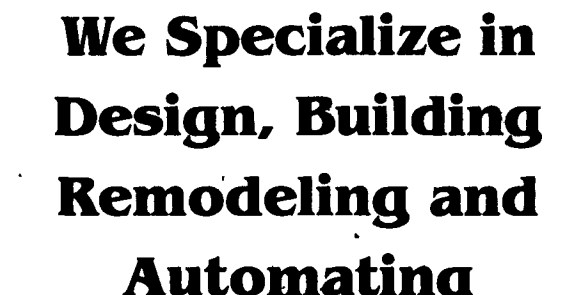
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