

Yoder Family Works Together

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year showing at the Farm Show. Although Lee spends some time at the Farm Show, both know that attending shows is something Joanne loves to do.

At The Farm Show

"Lee knows I enjoy going to the shows, although you don't get a lot of sleep!" Joanne laughed. "Michael was 9 months old last year and we were snowed in. But everyone pitched in and helped. The draft horses were used to bring hay and straw through the snow for the animals in the barns."

This year the Yoders plan to show six milk cows and two heifers. They will set up Friday night and "sleep" on cots and bales of hay.

"We never get much sleep with the cows mooing, the kids playing and the lights on all night," Joanne laughed.

Lee, Cindy (18) and Brad (17) do most of the showing. Cindy's been showing animals since 9 years old.

In 1993 during the Mifflin County Youth Fair, Cindy earned the Ora Sunderland Award for the

outstanding 4-H dairy club member.

In 1995, both Cindy and Brad received the award. The Yoder family earned premier breeder and premier exhibitor awards three years in a row at the Mifflin County Youth Fair.

Joanne said she sees showing dairy animals as a way to expose others to farming, especially at the Farm Show.

"It's a way to educate the public. At Harrisburg, the non-farm kids come in and get excited about what they see. The milking area



Lee D. and Joanne Yoder lead one of their show animals, Ridge-Point Mascot Mindy. Mindy's production is projected to be 26,370 pounds milk at 305 days.



Teaching responsibility and working cooperatively are top priorities at Ridge-Point farm, home of Lee D. and Joanne Yoder's family and Holstein herd.

gets crowded every evening with people watching."

At Home

Lee D. and Joanne milk 75 Holsteins three times a day on a farm they rent from Son and Betty Bonson. The Yoders believe their rolling herd average of 23,289 pounds of milk is their reward for good herd health, a good breeding program and raising good crops.

"My goal is to make better forages so we don't have to buy a lot of protein. I try to teach the boys that too," Lee said. "In 1992, we

installed a liquid manure system. That really cuts down on fertilizer."

The Yoders earned the Mifflin County Conservation District co-operator of the year award in 1993 because of their good conservation practices. Lee also hauls over 200 loads of sawdust to local farmers each year in addition to the field work.

The Yoders rent three farms for a total of 180 tillable acres. They've been milking at Son Bon-

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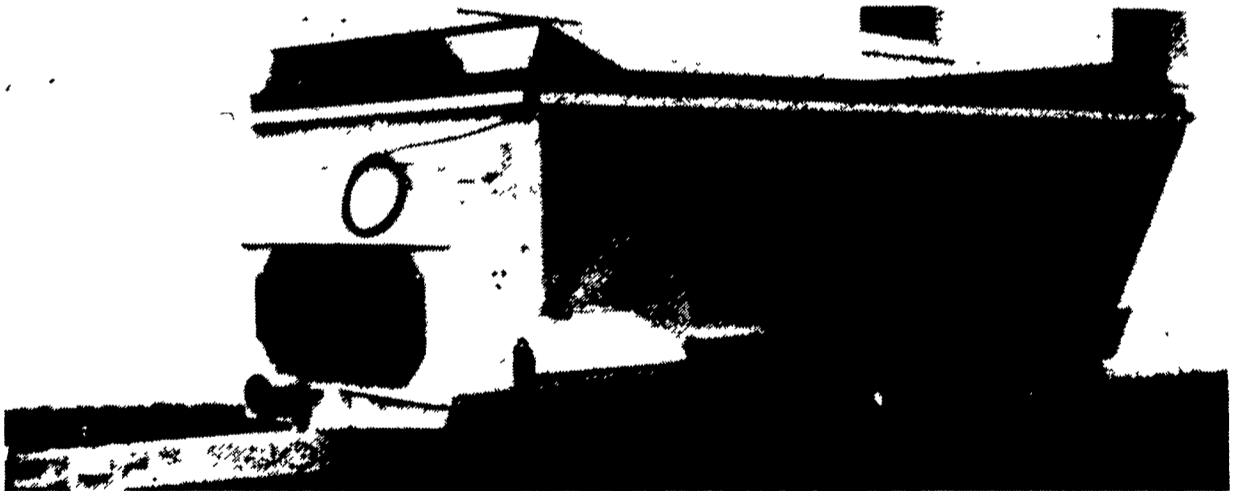
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