

Her Dream Came True In Dairy Expo Show Arena

JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Correspondent

EAST BERLIN (York Co.) —

At a Central York 4-H Dairy Club meeting last year, members were asked to respond to roll call by sharing one of their goals.

Amy Trimmer, veteran exhibitor at 17 and owner of her own herd of 15 registered Holsteins, gave the request some thought, then confided to other club members her long-time dream. Her goal as a junior dairy exhibitor was to show an animal at the World Dairy Expo, held each October in Madison, Wisconsin, and considered the international, premier, all-breed dairy cattle show.

Last October, Amy's dream became breathtaking reality, as judges at the show beckoned her to lead JCY April Starbuck-ET out at the head of the parade of about three dozen of the nation's best spring yearlings.

As the young exhibitor coolly and professionally led her beloved animal before the audience of thousands of dairy enthusiasts, a wave of applause burst from a support group of proud friends and fellow Pennsylvania exhibitors.

"It's a big show. I was nervous," quietly admits this junior exhibitor, whose first turn around a show arena came when she was 3, at the halter of a junior calf in the York Holstein show's popular Kiddie Klass.

Amy, a sophomore at Spring Grove Area High School, is the daughter of Larry and Shirley Trimmer, Admire Road, East Berlin. The family's home is located adjacent to the farm owned by Shirley's parents, Rodman and Jane Thompson.

The Thompson family's "Core-dale" herd of registered Holsteins was a long-time staple of the regional show circuit, until the family retired from dairying a few years ago. Heifers continue to graze in the farm's pastures and make their mark in regional show competition, many of them junior project animals owned by Amy and her brother Chad.

It was through a long-time friendship with the Jaye Young

family of Franklin County — a friendship rooted in cattle shows — that Amy came to be the owner of the All-American heifer. The Coredale herd show string for several years often included 4-H animals owned by Troy Young, who helped care for the combined group of cattle. One of them, JCY Starbuck April, was a particular favorite of Shirley Trimmer.

"Everyone wants that special cow; I always told the Youngs we would like to have an April," Amy's mother, Shirley, recalls.

When the April bloodlines were rematched in an embryo flushing and a heifer calf born, Jaye Young offered to sell it to Amy for a junior project calf.

Amy has always spent long hours working with her cattle on her grandparents' farm, frequently walking them to a nearby woods and back for exercise and halter training. After weaning at two months, the new calf joined Amy's group of show cattle.

With the opportunity to name her new calf, the Trimmer's took the name of the original April they had so admired, through switching the sire's name to last on the registry application.

JCY April Startuck-ET was official.

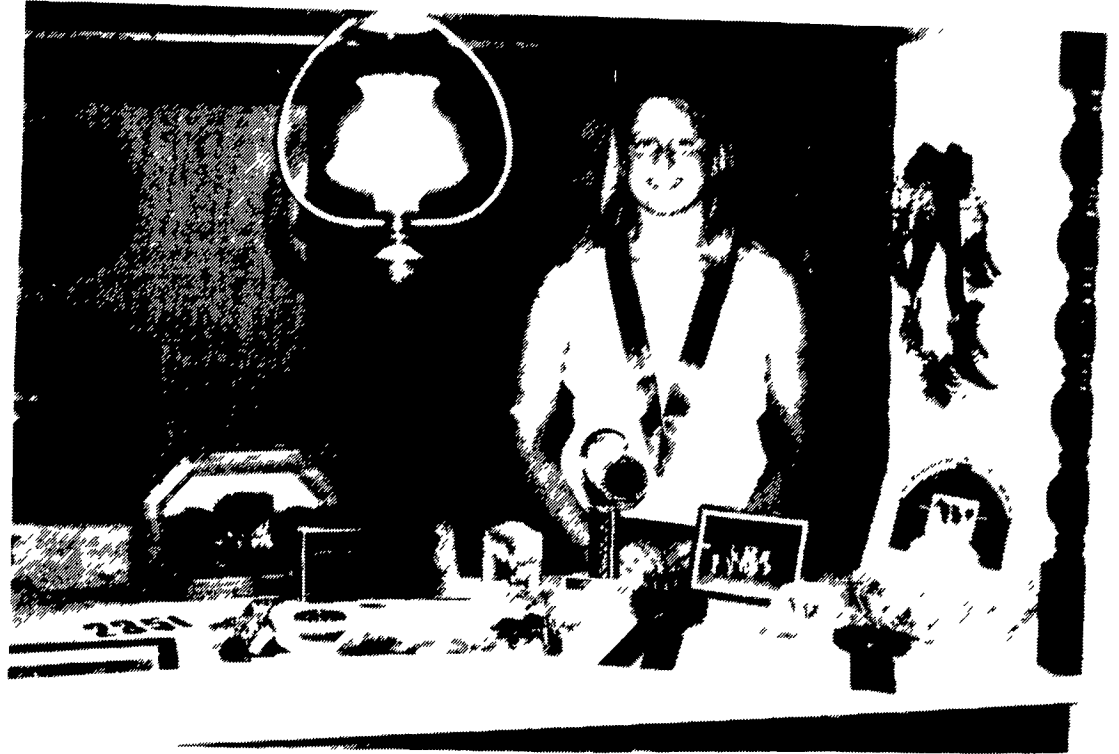
Her first show season, in 1996, was a commendable one, but not spectacular. April and Amy took third and fifth places as a junior calf. But seasoned judging eyes saw more in the calf, and suggested Amy just keeping her along and give her time to develop.

She started the 1997 season by taking the junior blue ribbon in her class at the Pennsylvania Spring Holstein Show in Harrisburg, and second in the open show placings.

Slightly over-conditioned due to Amy's admitted tendency to "baby" her and slip her an extra scoop of feed, she was nevertheless assessed as a well-balanced heifer.

"She eats anything and everything," grins Amy of her growthy show heifer.

A quick follow-up appearance at the Ohio Spring National earned April another open class second place out of a class of 36



Amy Trimmer has amassed awards for her All American and Junior All American spring yearling show heifer, many of them displayed in the kitchen/dining room of the family's country home.



Amy Trimmer holds the halter of her spring yearling class winner of the 1997 World Dairy Expo Holstein show.



The Trimmers, Amy and her dad Larry seated, mother Shirley and brother Chad standing, with photos and videos recount memories of the successful 1997 show season.

head. Later, she took wins at both the York 4-H Roundup show and the county's Holstein show.

Meanwhile, despite rapidly-increasing interest in this tall, growthy, stylish yearling, and her consistently-impressive show wins, the Trimmers did not succumb to the lure of allowing a professional to be at the halter. April was Amy's heifer and Amy was going to be her leadsman.

"I wouldn't let anyone else show her," insists Amy of her "baby."

Pennsylvania Holstein president Jim Burdette, Mercersburg, took an early interest in Amy and April, encouraging her to consider taking the yearling all the way to the Expo show at Madison and to personally be at the halter.

More encouragement came from former York County Holstein breeder Paul King, now retired in West Virginia, but still called on frequently as a cattle show official. King, after judging April at the local show, further encouraged Amy to consider entering national competition.

After April took the junior division junior honors and open show honorable mention at the Carlisle Southcentral Holstein Champion

Show last August, the Trimmers made a decision. They promptly entered April in the World Dairy Expo.

A few weeks later, she won her class and was reserve junior champion at the Maryland State Fair. In late September, April added to her honors with second-placings at both the Pennsylvania Fall Championship and Eastern National shows at Harrisburg.

Meanwhile, Amy continued to resist buyers for her heifer, she was determined not to sell April at any price. Showing at the Expo was her dream and April was the best chance she might ever have at that goal. As a counter to the increasing pressure of the show season successes on Amy, and to keep April in good shape, the pair walked, a "good half-mile" every day.

Getting April to Madison was the next hurdle for Amy, who reluctantly loaded her on a truck for the long trip west.

Countering her tears of concern over parting with her heifer for the long haul were the veteran showmen to whom she entrusted April — Chris and Budgie Hill, Tom McCauley and Dale Bendig.

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