



Although Karen Sellers is a registered nurse, county Farm Women president, and active in many church and community activities, she finds time to work in the many flower beds on the family farm.

Karen Sellers Heads Lebanon County Farm Women

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Karen Sellers leads 20 societies with 274 members as president of the Lebanon County Society of Farm Women.

That is demanding in itself, but Karen also has had the daunting task of serving as president twice when the Lebanon County Farm Women hosted the Spring Rally — this year and in 1983 — the only years the county ever hosted the annual event.

"All the societies really help out, but I can breathe a lot easier when the day is over," Karen said of being responsible for about 1,000 guests from across the state.

Karen and her husband Ken live in a house built in 1796. Ken's grandparents purchased the 300-acre farm about 75 years ago.

Although many older stone homes have a date carved in



The Seller's 1796 farmhouse has a German prayer carved into the stone above the front porch.

stone, the Sellers farmhouse is unique in that it has several sentences carved above the entrance. The Sellers had the German words translated into English and discovered the words were actually a prayer: "God, protect this house and all that go in and out. Protect it from fire, storm, wind, hail, and with your hand from all danger. David and Emma Emsminger, 1796."

Although Karen grew up on a dairy farm, she said things were done quite differently on her farm. She didn't know there were registered cows until she married Ken. But the biggest difference was that Ken wasn't as tied down to the farm as her parents, but took time off for vacations and other activities.

"The farm is a great place to raise kids and work together as a family," Karen said.

The Sellers have three adult children and two granddaughters. Son Craig and wife Meranda farm in partnership with Ken and Karen. Another son, Kevin, helps on the farm as needed. Although Karen works as a registered nurse, she helps on the farm every other weekend.

Craig and Meranda recently took over responsibility for the 70 registered Holsteins and 80 head of young stock. That leaves more time for Ken to pursue his custom combining business, for which Karen takes care of the bookwork.

For family partnerships to work, Karen said, "requires good communication and the realization that everyone's input is important. Just because we are older and have more experience doesn't mean we know everything."

As the county president, Karen is invited to other counties for their annual conventions.

Karen believes Farm Women membership is an ideal place to develop friendships and to help with community needs. Karen is one of 16 members of Society 11. In addition to county and state projects, the individual societies also hold bake sales and donate money to help fund local nonprofit organizations who help those in need.

Some of Karen's fondest memories of Farm Women are of making meals for farm and city week tours, playing Bingo with nursing home residents, and

holding treasure hunts and workshops. During a treasure hunt, one of the requirements was for members to go to the police station and have the police photograph them. The photo was required as proof.

Karen also serves on the county extension's family living committee. She is a member of the Farm Women's chorus, sings in the church Christmas cantata, and teaches Sunday school. She is a women's auxiliary treasurer for the United Church of Christ Church Home and often drives a mini-bus to transport residents to shopping trips, picnics, craft sales, restaurants, and other events.

Karen's husband, Ken, is board treasurer for the Lebanon County Expo. As his wife, Karen sometimes helps out with unexpected duties such as shoveling snow off the expo roof. During the Lebanon Area Fair, Karen volunteers at the refreshment stand.

In her spare time, Karen enjoys sewing and reading. She collects carousel horses and porcelain dolls. She also enjoys cooking.

She shares the following recipes with readers:

FRUIT COCKTAIL PUDDING

3 boxes instant vanilla pudding
8-ounces cream cheese
1 large can fruit cocktail, drained
6 cups milk
Beat cream cheese with a little milk until nice and smooth. Then alternate between adding pudding and remaining milk. Spoon in fruit cocktail.

LEMON SQUARES

1 cup flour
½ cup butter, softened
¼ cup confectioners' sugar
1 cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
2 eggs
2 tablespoons lemon juice
Heat oven to 350 degrees. Cream together flour, butter, and confectioners' sugar. Press evenly into bottom of ungreased square pan. Bake 20 minutes. Beat remaining ingredients until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Pour over hot crust and bake about 25 minutes longer. Cool and cut into 2-inch squares.

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