

Bomgardner Family Prepares For Lebanon Fair

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

ANNVILLE (Lebanon Co.) — Ordinary people and little details make community fairs successful.

It's people such as the Bomgardner family that help make Lebanon Area Fair a continuing event.

Leroy helps with the maintenance and Evelyn assists Farm Women Group 15 in the fair kitchen. Daughter Val enters sewing, baking, and fresh vegetables in the competition and

sells barbecue tickets and cookies for the 4-H fundraisers.

Fairgoers seldom think of the work involved in the weeklong fair, which runs from today through Aug. 5, but if the work was left undone, it would cause chaos for all.

Think of the restrooms, kept in tiptop shape by Leroy, and the work required to transform the indoor expo center from livestock exhibition to banquet hall. Of course, everybody wants to buy food at the fair, which requires hundreds of volunteers for

cooking, serving, and cleanup. If people didn't enter projects, there would be no animal exhibitions or cooking, sewing, baking, and floral displays.

Val, who loves to sew and cook, is doing her part to keep competition strong. Previous best of show and first-place ribbons inspires her to keep entering. Competition is not limited to the fair.

A few weeks ago, Val has been active in 4-H sewing club for seven years, and won a gold ribbon at Fashion Revue, which qualified her to advance to state competition. Unfortunately, Val can not enter the winning outfit in the Lebanon Fair because the state competition coincides with 4-H State Days.

But that doesn't mean Val won't have a project for the Lebanon Fair. She sewed a dress for her niece that she is entering. She used the same pattern for the dress that is in state competition.

Val said that the dress style follows a simple pattern. She thinks the leopard print is what appealed to the judges at the regional competition.

"I'm crazy over leopard prints," she said.

The Bomgardners moved off the farm within the last year so that Leroy could devote more time to the pastorate, but their involvement in ag-related activities continue.

Valerie, who turned 18 on the last day of school and graduated, has two part-time jobs in addition to helping her married sister, who is recuperating from cancer treatment.

Although Val has shown cattle in the past, she will not be showing this year. However, she is busy baking for the Hershey Chocolate Cookie contest. She's hoping for the same success last year, when she won first place.



Last year Val won first place in the Hershey's Chocolate Cookie and Brownie contest. She's hoping for a repeat this year.



Leroy and Evelyn Bomgardner and daughter Val recently moved off their dairy farm, but continue to participate in agriculture events.

Here is the recipe that she is entering.

TELEPHONE BARS

- 1 cup chopped dates
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons baking cocoa
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 cup chocolate chips (optional)

In a small bowl, pour boiling

water over chopped dates and baking soda. Mix and cool. Cream sugar and shortening. Add eggs, vanilla, salt, and cocoa. Stir in flour, alternating with the date mixture, beat well. Spread in a greased 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top. You may substitute 1/2 cup whole wheat flour for a 1/2 cup of white flour. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes.

The friend who gave me this recipe said that every time she served it, the guests telephoned the next day for the recipe.

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