

Pennsylvania Ayrshire Princess Deals With The Worst, Best

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additional silo, built onto the barn, and added a larger milking parlor.

The family farm is surrounded by mountainous peaks and is within a mile of the popular recreational man-built Raystown Lake.

"I guess the lake is necessary because recreation is a big part of the economy, but it has brought nothing but aggravation for us," Keith said.

While transporting equipment from farm to farm, Keith said he has been spit on, hollered at, swore at, and cut off the road by drivers of recreational vehicles who think they own the road.

Keith said it's difficult to survive as a small family farm, but is reluctant to expand. He believes that larger farms lend to a "surplus."

The farm enables them to carry on the tradition of not only raising produce for themselves but for others. They raise and freeze 100 quarts of corn for themselves and another 100 for church and Grange usage. The corn is boiled over a propane burner. Wire baskets filled with



At the pageant, Jennifer Holchin, center back, crowns Pennsylvania Ayrshire Princess Jodi Keith flanked by Alternates Amanda Brandt, Huntingdon County, left, and Mary Fencil, Fayette County.

the blanched corn is set in the farm's spring to cool before being cut off the cob.

The farm spring also supplies water to half the town of Entriken.

A junior at Huntingdon Area School, Jodi participates in girls' soccer, track and field, FFA, band, chorus, and Key Club. She is active in both county and dairy club 4-H. She is active in Grange, church youth group activities, and enjoys movies and meeting new people.

Jodi is considering attending a technical school to study radiology.

During the summer months, Jodi earns money babysitting.

In addition to her duties as Ayrshire Princess, Jodi is also an ambassador for the dairy princess promotional program in Huntingdon County.

Jodi is eager to promote Ayrshires and wants people to call her if they want an Ayrshire princess to help with events. Call (814) 658-3232 or e-mail farmer-girl-34+@hotmail.com

Cherry Picking Season Opens

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are planted from 8-15 feet apart, depending on the root stock.

Trees are planted on the top of a hill which protects them from frost. This often exposes them to heavy winds that blow them over and require restaking. Each year, about the first week of April, 200 colonies of bees are brought in for pollination.

Cherries on the east and south sides ripen from 5 to 10 days earlier than those facing the

north.

Variables that haunt orchard growers include winter freeze, spring frost, insects, disease, deer, bird, hail, rain at harvest, and competition.

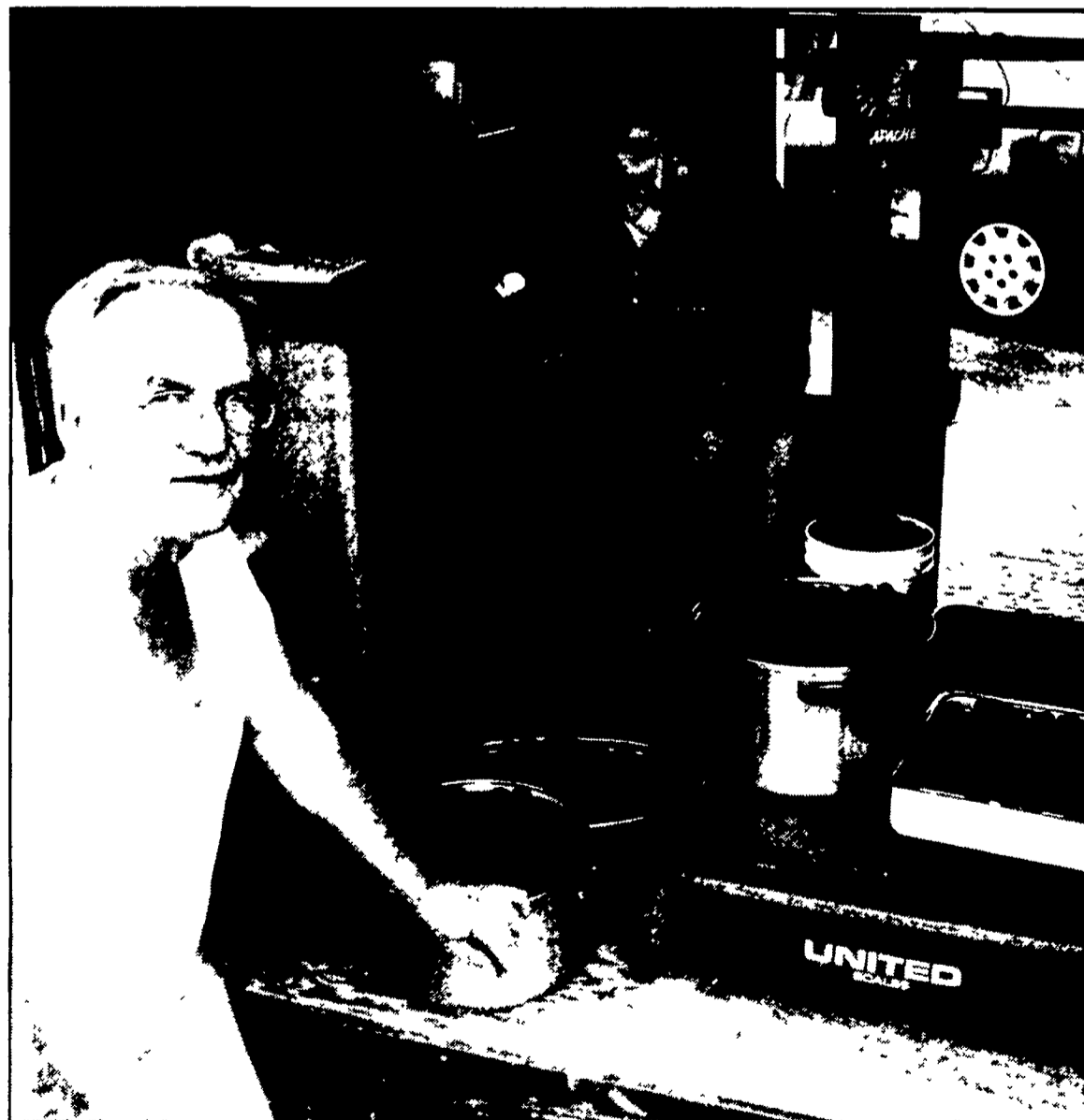
"We grow enough for the birds and people," Haas said of the useless and endless methods used to deter birds.

Deer damage can be extensive. Woodland edges the orchards and deer love to strip the trees of all leaves and blossoms. Recently the orchard invested \$10,000 in

placing an invisible fence around the orchard and purchasing two Siberian Huskies to patrol the area at night.

Recently Haas turned the orchards over to his son Tom Haas.

Cherry Hill Orchards Outlet is located at Long Lane on Marticville Road, Lancaster. Hours are 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday 7 a.m.-4 p.m. The orchards are closed Sunday. For more information, call (717) 872-9311.



The cherry harvest is ahead by about 10 days this year. Cherries are plentiful, flavorful, and larger than usual. Allan Carr, left, Middletown, said it took him only 1½ hours to pick these cherries. Richard Haas of Cherry Hill Orchards weighs them.

Chester County Dairy Royalty To Be Crowned

CHESTER SPRINGS (Chester Co.) — Chester County ranks fifth in the state of Pennsylvania for milk production. This year the new Chester County dairy princess and five dairy ambassadors will be promoting milk to those living in this area.

The Chester County Dairy Princess Pageant will be Sunday, June 30, at 2:30 p.m. at the Chester Springs Creamery overlooking the Milky Way Farm of Chester Springs. The public is invited to attend.

Preparing for her new role as Chester County dairy princess is 19-year-old Elizabeth Young, known to her friends as Betsy. She is the daughter of Charles and Debra Young of West Grove. She works on the family owned "Pure AYR Farm" with a milking herd size of 95 Ayrshire and Brown Swiss milked twice daily. In her free time, Betsy enjoys reading, drawing, and painting.

Serving as dairy ambassadors this year are five young women who will be assisting Betsy in her duties visiting schools, stores, farm functions, various civic groups and attending training seminars. Rebecca Olan, known to family and friends as Becky, is the 16-year-old daughter of Rob and Sharon Nolan of Cochranville.

Having three older brothers, Becky has learned to handle herself in most situations and it has given her the stamina she needs to work with the family's "Dreamnol" herd of 35 Ayrshire and Holsteins. She

attends Octorara Area High School, where she will enter her senior year this fall.

Patricia Harrop, or Trish, is the 14-year-old daughter of Bruce and Betsy Harrop of Exton. Trish helps on her parents' farm where mostly Holstein, three Jerseys, and an Ayrshire are milked. She also cares for her own four dairy cows. She attends Downingtown Area School and will enter grade nine.

Christy Guest is the 16-year-old daughter of Stan and Cathy Guest of Pottstown. This active teen is a member of the dairy 4-H club and shows her own dairy animals, which are part of the family's 160-head dairy. She attends Owen J. Roberts High School and will enter her junior year this fall.

Becky Bailey is the 15-year-old daughter of Baynard and Jane Bailey of West Chester. She attends Unionville Area High School. Along with the Holstein cows, a unique breed of cows grace the Bailey meadows. The name, Lineback, helps to identify their characteristics. Becky shows her dairy cows at the various 4-H and dairy events.

Abby Hedrick, Pottstown, is the 16-year-old daughter of Ruth and Jon Hedrick. She helps to care for the Ayrshire and Holstein dairy cows of a local farmer, where her own four dairy animals are housed when she is not showing them at 4-H shows. Abby attends Owen J. Roberts High School and will be entering 11th grade.

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