

Bradford 4-H'er Plans First Trip To Farm Show As Exhibitor

(Continued from Page A35)

exhibit either a Hampshire or a Yorkshire-Hampshire cross.

"For the Farm Show, you can tag two pigs and decide at the last minute which one you're going to show," she said.

How did she get interested in showing at the Farm Show?

"My Dad got me into it," said Meredith, whose father is the Bradford County dairy agent with Penn State Cooperative Extension. "He's a strong influence."

"Glen's son, John, has taken pigs to the Farm Show for years," said Gary. "We thought that pigs were a good project. We're dairy people, but we said we'd try it for a year. Pigs are so much smarter than cows. That got us hooked."

Juggling all her responsibilities is probably the most difficult part of having animal projects for Meredith.

"I'm supposed to walk them every day and I go out once in a while and play with them. This gives them more muscle and gets them used to people. They're also easier to handle in the ring," she said.

The hogs are kept in a shed on the farm that is also home to a few milking Jerseys and Holsteins. Self-feeders and waterers



Meredith Hennip, center, shows off her champion pig banner from this year's Troy Fair. This week, she will exhibit a hog at the Pennsylvania Farm Show for the first time. Lloyd Ebersole, right, was the first to suggest that Meredith start taking hogs as a 4-H project. Lloyd's nephew, John Ebersole, left, also shows hogs at local fairs and the Farm Show.

reduce the labor, but there's still plenty of work to do.

"The cleaning up part's not the greatest," she said.

Even with the unsavory tasks

considered, Meredith would still encourage others to show hogs.

"It's a lot of fun," she said.

"The best thing is the money. I usually put it in the bank."

Besides working with hogs, Meredith participates in dairy judging, handles dairy and craft projects as a member of the Udder Bunch 4-H Club, and at-

tends Sunday School at the North Orwell United Methodist Church.

She also plays basketball, runs cross-country, and plays the clarinet in the school band. However, she'll take a few days away from her active school schedule to travel to Harrisburg.

"I'll miss a few days of school," said Meredith, "Two at the most. I'm looking forward to that, in a way!"

Gary and his wife, Marianne, are happy that their girls have taken advantage of the opportunities in 4-H and hope they continue with the program. Another daughter, Leanne, is very involved with sports.

"I think 4-H is a great activity for learning how to work with animals and to be kind to animals," Gary said. "I also see them working with other kids, learning cooperation among kids. They all enjoy each other's company even though they're competing. It's not cutthroat competition. 4-H teaches them how to work together and how to be responsible for taking care of something. And it's about following through."

"Our philosophy has been with our kids that we don't really care what they get involved with for activities, as long as they are positive and the kids stay very active in something. So far it has worked OK."

Maryland Extension Offers Classes On Small Farm Enterprises

ELKTON, Md. — The Maryland Cooperative Extension Offices of Cecil and Harford Counties will offer "Introduction to Small Farm Enterprises" to cur-

rent and potential owners of small farms and anyone else interested in learning the basics of agriculture.

Extension Educators Scott

Rowe and Shannon Potter will teach the shortcourse with help from established small farm operators and other experts. A class fee of \$5 per person or \$8 per


couple will help cover the cost of materials.

The class will be offered at the Maryland Cooperative Extension Office in Elkton, Md., from 6:30

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