

# On The Farm With Carla Martin



With so many children in the family, there's always a scramble to ride the 4-wheeler. Don't worry — it's not moving with this many aboard. Safety measures are observed, and no family member has ever been injured on it.

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basketball, choir, Bible quizzing, and other organized activities.

Martin is president of the Natural by Nature Cooperative, associate pastor of Manheim Mennonite Church, and principal of the home school. "but my biggest job is being a father. It's a challenge to spend individual time

with each child, but I think that's especially important during the teen years of each," Martin said.

Some of the sons share their dad's interest in following baseball and football games in which the local school district excels.

The parents also take the children out to eat individually.

Robbin said that one of the habits she started 15 years ago is

essential in raising a large family. She requires one hour of quiet time each afternoon, during which younger children nap and the older ones read or do another quiet activity.

"Devotional time with the Lord is important to me. He gives me grace to meet each day's needs," Robbin said.

With home-schooling so many children and the constant requirements of laundry, cooking house cleaning, and other chores Robbin, who is expecting the family's 14th child in February, said that she has moments of weariness.

"But it's worth it. It is fulfilling to see each child grow and mature," she said.

The Martins are part of a home-school cooperative, which enables the children to participate in chemistry, Spanish, and public speaking classes with other home-school students. Carla and the older siblings took classes at a local college during their final high schooling, where much is independent study.

The parents say they make an effort to keep sports and other interests in perspective and balance. They believe it is of greater value for children to find pleasure in work.

The Martins have been happy to provide a place in the farm business for their



Younger siblings in the Martin family are encouraged to help the older ones with chores in order to gain experience and assume responsibility. Here, Carla bottle feeds a calf while her sister Sarah watches.

adult children who are interested in farming, but they are not opposed to them seeking other careers.

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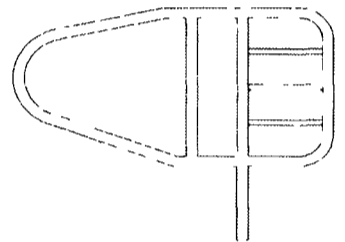
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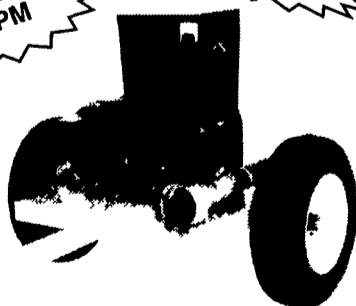
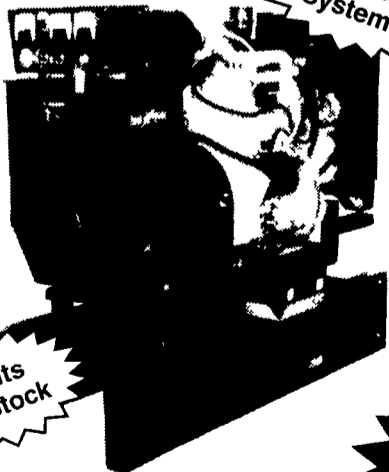
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