

I would like to nominate my Mother, Marilyn Kerchenfaut, for the "Mother of the Year" award. When people say that their mother is the greatest, well, I feel my Mom is "over the top!" Her love for the farm is unbelievable, dedicated, and optimistic. She has been married to my father for over 50 years and has been actively farming by his side for 48 years. She helps Dad by operating all the farm equipment including the combine, grain trucks, auger wagons, and drives the semi's. Somehow, she even finds time to feed everyone lunches and suppers.

Our first farm livestock was baby pigs, about 500 of them which mom ~~gave~~ gave their first shots and clipped their eye teeth. Next was our horses which we all had to helped

Well, Mom's pleading eyes looked at DAD, he replied "You will have to feed that calf every 3-4 hours even during the 20° nights. Her tender, loving care did the trick because that calf grew to weigh 1200 lbs. My brother and I showed cattle at the FORD County Fair for 4-H. Mom helped us lead the cattle, helped Shampoo the steers and prepare them for showing. She really beamed when she got to show the steer in the parents class. My mother recited "Take good care of "Mother Earth" and her "animals" and your rewards will be great.

Our family home has been an open door to many friends and families. Mother hosted two foreign exchange students, one from Chile and one

were relocating. A cousin came to stay with us for two weeks but stayed for two years. Eating popcorn, watching movies, playing cards and board games, having sleep-overs are treasured memories of Mom's seven grandchildren.

Being an advocate for education Mom encouraged us to succeed. My sister became a teacher's -Aide in TITLE ONE at Tri-Point high school, brother Rick obtained a B.A. degree in Ag-Econ, Master Degree from Thunderbird, speaks 5 Languages, farms, and is a licensed appraiser. Myself, I graduated from Lake Forest College with a BA in business and a Juris Law Degree from Denver University of Law. Mom is a retired E.M.T. and has her C.D.L. license.

week I was visiting my parents and I heard Dad say that he would love to own a tiling machine. Look out Mom!!! That might be your 71st birthday gift.

Mother has been a member of the Presbyterian Church for 50⁺, taught Sun. School for 10 yrs. and Youth Group for 8 years. She was a ^{Board} director of the Nursing Home in Piper City, 40⁺ years FORD County Home EXT. and 40⁺ years FORD County election judge.

Mom attributes all her many blessings to the 4-F's ... Faith, Family, Friends, and Farming.