

# Country EXTRA

## 'Thank God We're All Country Girls'

*"Well, a simple kinda life  
never did us no harm,  
Livin' with our family and  
workin' on a farm.  
Our days are all filled with  
an easy country charm...  
Thank God we're all country girls!"*

THEY SING together while walking the beans on their family's farm near Beresford, South Dakota. And the Heeren sisters—April, Heidi, Heather and Molly—also sing in front of lots of cheering crowds!

These girls have put on singing shows for governors, large crowds at

state fairs and farm groups of all kinds.

"We started singing when we were still rocking in our cradles," says Heather, who's 10.

That's about right, the girls' mother agrees. "They've always sung, ever since they were very tiny," she says.

Until about 3 years ago, the girls' only audience—besides their family—was the pigs, ducks, geese, chickens and pet pony named "Buttercup" on their farm.

That all changed after Heidi convinced her parents it would be lots of



**FOUR FARM SISTERS** love to sing about farming, their country and family life. They practice their music every day, but they still find time to play on their South Dakota farm.

(Still time to vote—See Jan 12 issue of *Highlights* for ballot or get one from *Highlights* office.)

## Need a Speaker?

For a farm meeting? Dealer meeting? Company sales program? Then schedule "Miss Agriculture"!

### SHE'S THE BEST OF THE BEST

The 10 finalists for the first "Miss Agriculture" are being selected by the votes of farmers and ranchers throughout the U.S. The ballot—which includes photos and background of the candidates for the title—is being carried in major farm magazines with a total of more than 3.0 million circulation.

The winner will be named on a nationally televised show on March 17, with Farm Broadcaster Orion Samuelson of WGN acting as the Master of Ceremonies. With these finals being carried on 95 syndicated TV stations throughout the U.S., plus more than 4,000 cable TV systems, the first "Miss Agriculture" will attract a good deal of positive exposure for agriculture.

### SURE TO DRAW A "FULL HOUSE"

Each candidate for the title is a current queen of a particular segment of agriculture, so she already has a full year of experience appearing before audiences. With this experience and exposure on national TV, she's sure to attract a good audience... and hold it!

### SCHEDULE HER NOW

The salary and expenses of "Miss Agriculture" will be paid out of her speaking and appearance fees. Any excess funds will be donated to agricultural charities.

For information on the availability of "Miss Agriculture" and her speaking fees, contact coordinator Jill Nickerson, Miss Agriculture Fund, Box 643, Milwaukee WI 53201. Or phone 414/423-0100.



fun for the whole family to take a vacation to Minneapolis so she could try out for the movie *Annie*.

### Take Show on Road

Heidi didn't get a part in the movie, but she did have fun performing. "That's when we got the idea to start our own singing group," she says.

The girls didn't have to look far to find someone to help them get their

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act together. Their mom used to sing with a group years ago, so she now helps her daughters prepare their shows.

These country girls like to sing country-western and gospel songs, and they also tell jokes about living on the farm.

When they were singing for a dairy group recently, Heather pretended to be very worried. When her sisters asked her why, Heather got a puzzled look on her face and asked, "If all those dairy farmers are out there watching us, who's at home milking all the cows?"

The girls change their songs and jokes for different audiences. They have a "pork show", a 4-H show, a farm supply show and many others.

### Sisters Like to 'Yak'

When they sang for their rural telephone co-op meeting, the girls made up their own words to a funny song about talking on the telephone. They told the audience that the telephone is a "big business" at their house because they all like to phone their friends. Then they sang in deep voices like their father's:

*"Get off the phone and make it fast... your awful habits cost us cash!"*

But the girls are serious, too, such as when they tell their audience about

growing up on the farm. "When we travel, we always dream of our meadow at home—where our young pony named Buttercup roams free," Heather says.

"We girls have lots in common with him—we're young... preparing for life... and growing up strong... as we 'Run for the Roses'." Then all the sisters sing the popular song.

Back home on the farm, there's plenty to keep the girls busy. Besides practicing their singing, they have schoolwork and chores to do.

"We all pitch in when Dad moves and sorts pigs," Heidi says, "and when he mows the lawn, it's our job to rake up."

During the summer, everyone in the family—including the sisters' 6-year-old brother, Ted—walks beans to hoe out the weeds.

For fun, the girls take a ride on Buttercup, or ride bicycles down their tree-lined farm lane.

What does the future hold for the singing farm girls? They may be headed for bigger shows. Maybe someday you'll even see them on TV.

But this final song they sing for all their shows makes it plain the farm will always be their favorite place!

*"Well, we got some fine folks,  
an' we got an old fiddle;  
When the sun's comin' up  
we got cakes on the griddle;  
And life ain't nothin' but a funny,  
funny riddle...  
Thank God we're all country girls!"*

**IF YOU LIKED** reading about these country girls, you'd love the latest "book-sized" edition of *Country Kids*, a magazine devoted exclusively to farm and ranch children. Send \$2.00 for sample copy or \$11.95 for a year's subscription (6 issues) to: Country Kids, Suite 235X, Box 572, Milwaukee WI 53201.