

Farm Women Group Makes a Cookbook

Herr Family Has Lots of Easter Chicks

By Mrs. Charles G. McSparran
Farm Feature Writer

Mountain chicks in their two large broiler houses

"Which came first, the chicken or the eggs?"

We often hear people ponder this question. Next to the cross, the egg has become probably the most widely used symbol of Easter.

No child's Easter basket is complete without a few chocolate and brightly colored candy eggs.

Is there anyone, even diet restricted, who doesn't eat an egg on Easter?

It's such fun to color and decorate eggs the day before Easter.

Eggs bring a nutritious, colorful, spring approach to Easter menus, too.

Baby chicks are another symbol used for Easter. The colorful little marshmallow ones brighten the child's Easter basket. Many children, too, are delighted with the colored live chicks.

A family which starts 390,000 chicks a year is the Lloyd H. Herrs of Marticville Road in Pequea Township. Six times a year they put 65,000 White

They contract with Victor Weaver of New Holland, in fact, they were the seventh family to contract with Weavers, and have been in the business seven years. These chickens are used mainly for Weaver's batter dipped chicken.

Herr's chicks come to them as day-old sexed chicks. Cockrels are put in one house and pullets in the other. By keeping them separate, they develop faster and are more nearly the same size, 3½ pounds, when they sell them. Cockrels are kept six weeks and four days and pullets seven weeks and four days.

Herr's use gas brooders and have all automatic feeding and watering. They have a diesel motor to make electricity in case of power failure.

Herr's 110 acre farm has been reduced to 55 acres by selling some ground for housing developments, for individual home plots and to neighboring farmers. They grow mostly corn and some hay.

They have 25 Angus steers. Also, 38 Corriedale-Hampshire



Mrs. Lloyd H. Herr, Lancaster RD6, with some of the Easter decorations she made. The large egg, with Easter nest inside, is made from light green string wound about an inflated balloon. The

string is starched. A hole cut in front after the egg is dried is trimmed with white lace. She also decorated the chicken and goose eggs.



Cross ewes and 50 spring lambs which are being sold mostly for the Easter market. This is a large white breed of sheep that comes from out west and the New Danville Pike to Millwood Road and from Sprecker Road to Penn Grant Road.

Herr's are the third generation to own this farm. They have the history of the farm which goes back beyond 1800 and gives

a vivid description of all the buildings and changes made in them from time to time. At that time the farm stretched from the New Danville Pike to Millwood Road and from Sprecker Road to Penn Grant Road.

Philip Baker was the first owner and built a log house and a double decker barn which stood until 1970. - David Harnish

In 1891 Noah Z Hess, Lloyd's grandfather, bought the farm, in 1909 Ira Herr, one of the Harnish family, married Mamie Hess, one of Noah's daughters.

They bought the farm in 1916. Three years later a quarry was opened on the farm.

In 1922 Ira Herr bought a retail milk route and was the first milkman in that area to sell milk in bottles. This milk route was discontinued in 1954.

Mr and Mrs Herr still live in part of the stone farmhouse. Lloyd H Herr, Ira's son, bought the farm in 1960 and changed from Ayrshire cows to Holsteins. He built the two large chicken houses in 1964 and the dairy herd was sold in 1968. The old barn was torn down in 1970 and another one built to meet the need of their present enterprises.

Lloyd has been a farmer all his life, having worked for his father before he bought the farm.

Mrs Herr, the former Darlene Miller, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Miller who now live at Lampeter. As a girl, she grew up on her parents' 90 acre farm at Refton and attended Lampeter High School. Before marriage she worked at Tidy Products Company and at Hamilton Watch Company.

Darlene is a charter member of Farm Women Society 22 which was organized 20 years ago. She has served on many committees of the Society and as secretary, treasurer, vice president and is serving the second year as president. She is on the Farm Women Society county board and is chairman of their scrapbook committee. She also served on their program committee for the annual convention last November.

Farm Women Society 22, centered in the Willow Street area, has many charitable projects. They contribute to the

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Firemen finish bringing fire near Manheim under control Monday.

An estimated \$45,000 to \$50,000 damage occurred in this barn fire on the farm tenanted by Harlan Groff, Holly Tree Road, Manheim RD1, and owned by Grant G. Simmons, 216 Landis Valley Road, Lancaster.

Some early reports had indicated arson, but the fire started from "some bad wires" and the possibility of arson is "definitely out," Paul Z. Knier, Lancaster County fire marshal, said Wednesday afternoon.

The fire early Monday afternoon, completely des-

troyed the barn and its contents, including many valuable pieces of farm equipment including a tractor, the charred remains of which are shown in the foreground, farm wagons and cultivators.

The house, shown in the photo, was only about 20 feet from the barn and received extensive damage from both flames and water used to bring the fire under control.

Five puppies were killed and several pieces of furniture were removed from the house at one point because of concern that the house might also be lost.