



Ida Risser

May is the month of flowers and Spring sunshine. I've decided the element of surprise is one reason I enjoy walks in the fields and woods. A hen pheasant rises to flight at my feet and sends

shivers through me. There is a forgotten apple tree in a fence row with red-pink buds bursting into beautiful pale pink blossoms. And under it I find white violets for a tiny two inch vase at home. Then unexpectedly I see a wild

flower which I feared had disappeared from our farm. Not for 30 years had I seen its heavenly blue periwinkle-like blossoms along the Conestoga River (it is officially a river now and no longer a creek).

Sometimes there are unpleasant surprises like finding six trees in a row chopped down without anyone even asking permission. But generally speaking "trampers" can not only learn about nature, but come home in a better state of mind.

xxx

We've taken one more step to save the soil on our farm. All of the fields have been laid out in contour strips and now we've put in a long sod waterway.

Since the new highway was built through the farm we have had a big problem with water after a heavy rain. We're hoping that planting redtop and Reed canary grass will reduce the erosion rate.

The law tells us that by 1977 all farmers who plow or till the soil will be required to have an erosion and sedimentation control plan.

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Some people have told me they would like to hear more about our week's stay in Seattle Washington in March. So I'll try to describe some of the things we saw in the Old Curiosity Shop at

Pier 51 on the Alaskan Way. I found some of the following very interesting and other plain grotesque and bizarre. There were fleas in dresses (looked at through a microscope), and also the Lord's prayer printed on a pin head and on a grain of rice. There was a 67 pound snail, the largest jawbone of a whale, a 6 ft. giant crab, and all types of guns and swords.

We also saw a two-headed calf, a 6 ft. mummy found in the desert in 1895, shrunken human heads, a 10 ft. rattlesnake skin and many finely carved totem poles from Alaskan Indians. Many items were for sale such as ivory figures, sea shells, furs, Indian turquoise jewelry, wood carvings, ships in bottles and many others.

Recycle Poultry Waste

Large-scale poultry operations can recycle poultry waste as feed on an economical basis, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report said recently.

The study, prepared by USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), examined economic aspects of recycling layer and broiler wastes from poultry and feeding them to livestock and chickens. It found that dried layer waste (DLW) can be processed and fed back to poultry on at least a break-even basis in 50,000-to-80,000 size laying hen operations. It is not a break-even operation for the smaller, family-size poultry farms, the study showed.

The cost of drying the layer waste was \$25, \$30, and \$46 per ton, respectively, for flock sizes of 80,000, 50,000, and 10,000. Results from feeding trials indicate that up to 12.5 percent DLW in the feed ration did not adversely affect egg production and feed efficiency. At higher percentages, egg production and feed efficiency were reduced. Both body weight and egg weight declined when 20 percent or more DLW was included in the ration of laying hens.

DLW can also be fed to dairy and beef cattle. The ERS report said that beef cattle rations containing up to 30 percent DLW have been fed without significant adverse effects on performance and carcass quality. Ground and ensiled broiler waste likewise produced no negative effects on the carcass quality of beef cattle, though feed efficiency tended to be lower when ground broiler waste was used. The major problem with feeding DLW to beef cattle was found to be its palatability.

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