

Ida Risser

I've been thinking this week as I gather the harvest from my garden that in a way it is similar to having children grown up and be independent, productive citizens.

In a garden you have weeks and months of hard and sometimes unpleasant work. The correct seed must be planted at the right time and cultivated carefully and

protected from the elements. Then comes the day when the crops mature and you can reap your harvest.

With children, one somehow lives through years of messy eating habits, many trips out of bed during the night, squabbles and arguments, problems at school and many worries.

Then comes the day when the child is grown up and

takes his place in the medical world, the business world and in agriculture or whatever pursuit he has chosen and the parent has an opportunity to sit back and be proud of his part in the accomplishments of a young adult. However, it seems we don't attain anything without some work.

The other Sunday we traveled to Clinton County for a Field Day. It was my first visit to this area and newly opened highways made the trip easy. But, for pure enjoyment I like the less traveled routes as they wind through woods and past small country homes and old mills.

I was keen-eyed enough to spy seven deer grazing in two different groups at the edge of a field also.

Before we left the county, I

was introduced to a friendly lady who said, "I always read your article first when Lancaster Farming comes to our house." Now of course those are sweet words every time I hear them.

What really amazes me is the wide area which this, no longer small paper covers, not only in many counties in Pa. but many other states as well.

## Tourist guide published

For many small farmers in recent years the spare rooms in the farmhouse have provided more bountiful harvests than the old south forty, and all signs indicate that trend will continue.

Hundreds of farm and ranch families have turned their spare rooms, cabins and even extra farmhouses into income-producing vacation havens for city dwellers, according to Pat Dickerman, editor and publisher of the Farm, Ranch & Countryside Guide which for 27 years has been bringing urban vacationers and rural hosts together.

Miss Dickerman anticipates the Bicentennial tourist crop to the American countryside will be a bumper one exceeding all previous years. Harvesting vacationers - that is, providing lodging and either cooking facilities or else family-style meals - is a business that allows rural families to put to good use their talents for hospitality and homemaking, and to use more completely the total resources of the farm or ranch for expanding income.

## USDA sees milk production recovering

WASHINGTON — Milk production, which turned down from year - earlier levels during the spring, likely will show small increases from a year ago by late 1975. For the entire year, production is expected to total close to the 115.4 billion pounds of 1974. Farm milk prices are likely to rise seasonally during the remainder of the year and remain well above a year ago.

Milk production in August was almost 1 percent below 1974, chiefly the result of lower output per cow stemming from reduced concentrate feeding. Milk cow numbers continued down from year - earlier levels by only about half a percent, the slowest rate of decline in about two decades.

Slaughter cow prices have eased downward from the spring highs and likely will

It also provides an opportunity to show and tell the story of American agriculture to urban visitors - its problems and its enormous successes.

The Bicentennial edition of the Farm, Ranch & Countryside Guide, now being prepared for press, will list more than 500 recommended ranches, farms and rural lodges in each region of the country. Now is the time for rural hosts interested in being listed in it and cashing in on one next year's crop of tourists to write to Farm & Ranch Vacations, Inc., 36 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022 for the free brochure, How to Harvest Vacationers.

remain at low levels this fall and winter. The large number of dairy replacements on farms (midyear and the lack of significant improvement in economic alternatives for dairymen also will help to limit declines in milk cow numbers through the rest of 1975.

Hot, dry weather during July and August in the western Corn Belt and strengthening world demand for grain indicate higher feed costs in late 1975 and early 1976 than earlier expected. However, rising milk prices likely will lead to much more attractive feeding relationships than a year ago and somewhat heavier feeding of grain. Milk production per cow may recover and start approaching more normal gains by late 1975.

Farm milk prices rose sharply in late summer, reaching \$8.47 per 100 pounds in August, up 53 cents from the June low and 73 cents above a year ago. Manufacturing milk prices also rose sharply and were more than \$1 above year-earlier levels in August.

Cash receipts from dairying were up about 5 percent from a year ago this summer after being down sharply earlier this year. Groff dairy income likely will remain above year-earlier levels during the rest of the year and probably will exceed \$9½ billion for all of 1975. The 2 percent gain from 1974 reflects slightly higher milk prices as milk marketings may be close to a year ago. Although feed costs were down about a tenth from August 1974, other costs have continued to rise.

Sparked by declining production, low seasonal stocks, and strong sales, wholesale butter prices have risen about 16 cents per pound since early June. American cheese prices rose about 15 cents from early May. Even nonfat dry milk prices, which had been at support purchase prices since mid-1974, moved upward 5 cents in late August and early September.

Retail dairy prices in July were down about 1½ percent from their peak in February. Wholesale price rises are starting to be reflected in retail stores.

## Farm Women Calendar

Thursday, October 2  
Society 17 meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Orpha Weaver's. Program will be a dried flower exhibit.

Society 20 meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 4  
Society 1 meeting at Landis Valley for an Apple Butter Making Day.

Society 10 meeting at 1:30 p.m. for an auction.

Society 6 meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Emory Wogelmuth.

### Plant Perennials

Many perennials can be planted in early fall, remind Extension floriculturists at The Pennsylvania State University.

Iris, peonies, daylilies hardy bulbs, and phlox are among those which can be set.

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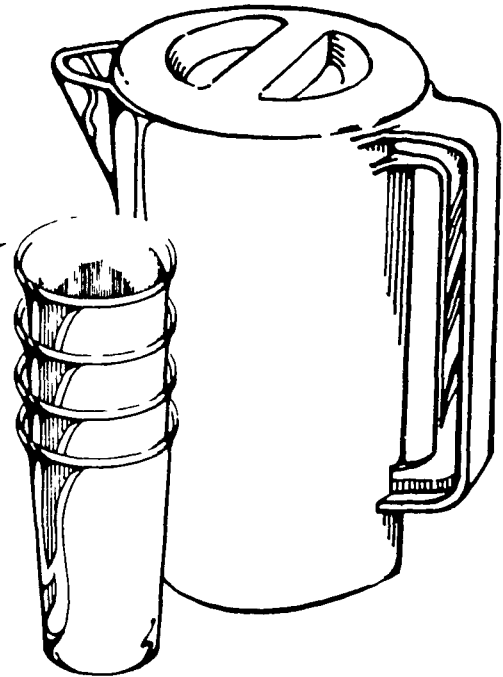
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