

# Partner in Agricultural Progress—The Farm Wife

The foundation of the modern family farm lies in its heritage of the past.

For the farm wife has always been at the side of her husband and in his absence in his place.

The customary tradition of women of agriculture is well



The Colonial farm wife combined field work with traditional task of raising a family.

known—helping to build homes in the wilderness, breaking the ground, sowing the seed and harvesting the crops while continuing the numerous daily tasks of raising and caring for families. But history is dotted with instances of the efforts of women of agriculture which went well above and beyond even these demanding tasks, according to farm life researchers at Sperry New Holland.

It is said the first person to set foot on Plymouth Rock from the Mayflower was a young woman of 19 named Mary Chilton. Her father became violently ill just as the ship weighed anchor off Cape Cod and died before its landing. Leading the way into the new land, this petite Pilgrim tilled the rocky soil to eke out an existence for her and her widowed mother.

The original male colonists of Jamestown, Va., while cultivating tobacco, complained constantly of the ban by the Virginia Company against bringing women to the colony. Finally, when the settlers were on the verge of open rebellion and threatening return to England, new company management changed the policy and arranged for the passage of 90 prospective brides.

In Haverhill, Mass. a monument stands to honor Hannah Duston. A farm wife, she and her new-born child were among the women and children taken captive in an Indian raid in which her husband and all other males were killed. After several days of forced march, Hannah led a revolt one night, killed her captors with their own tomahawks and scalped them as a warning to other raiders. She returned to her home to resume farming.

Women founded early East Coast agricultural settlements—Elizabeth Poole in Taunton, Mass.; Elizabeth Haddon in Haddonfield, N.J. and Madam Mary Faree who cultivated 2,500 acres in Pennsylvania.

During the Revolution, farm wives—in addition to providing food and materials for the military and keeping the family farms going while husbands went off to fight for independence—took even more active rolls.

Deborah Sampson of Plymouth, Mass. disguised herself as a man and under the name of Robert Shortliffe fought throughout the Revolution. Although wounded twice, her secret remained undisclosed until during a bout with fever her

true sex was discovered by a doctor. Even after recovery, she carried a letter through Redcoat lines to General Washington.

Western expansion is filled with the heroics of farm wives as families migrated to tame the wilderness. Rebecca Boone followed her husband, Daniel, into the wilds of Kentucky and the widowed mother of Sam Huston took her nine children into the mountains of Tennessee to homestead a farm and forever shape American history.

On both sides of the Civil War, the efforts of farm wives are rooted in history.

After the battle of Antietam, the United States Sanitary Commission, founded and staffed by women (many from farm backgrounds) to oversee the health of Union forces, tended 10,000 sick and wounded, providing their only meals for many days.

Allie McPeck, a widow, lived on a small farm near Jonesboro, Ga. Her home was under fire for days when the Blue and Gray clashed there.

She converted her home into a hospital and helped tend the sick and wounded of both armies as the battle lines constantly changed.

Today, the roles of such partners in agricultural progress may have changed somewhat, but their contributions are equally important.

Farm wives still can be found at their husbands' sides in the fields and behind the wheels of sophisticated machinery. Both partners also devote a considerable amount of time today in civic work to better their agricultural communities.

The 1975 Farm Family of the Year, selected in national competition sponsored by the USDA's Farmers Home Administration and Sperry New Holland,



Texas farm wife rakes hay, while her husband operates round baler during harvesting operation.

exemplifies this. Together, Mr. and Mrs. James Ottoman, of Malin, Ore., have been active in nearly a score of different civic endeavors, while farming 250 acres.

Mrs. Ottoman's civic activities have included PTA president; Girl Scout and 4-H Leader, American Auxiliary President, volunteer for blood banks, cancer and heart fund drives and the United Givers Fund.

Thus today and throughout history, the female role—the women of agriculture prominently among them—deserve the words of an observer from France:

"If I were asked to what the singular prosperity and growing strength of the American people ought mainly to be attributed, I shall reply... to the superiority of their women."



Mr. and Mrs. James Ottoman, and daughter, Dana, of Malin, Ore., National Farm Family of 1975, participate in nearly a score of different civic activities.

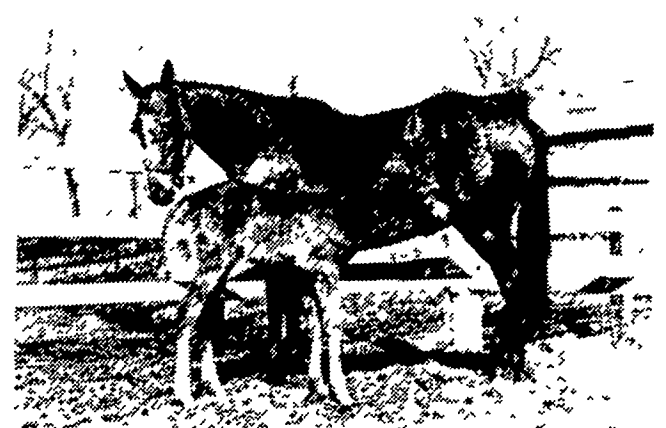
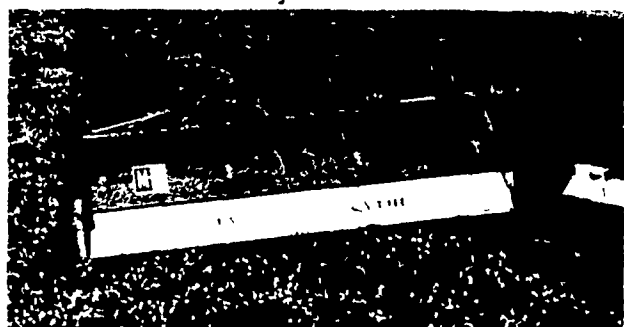


Photo courtesy of Sperry New Holland  
Lunchtime in the barnyard.

## M. C. ROTARY SCYTHE NON-STOP MOWING



Does the work of five machines — mower, windrower, conditioner, rake, shredder.

### MILLER'S REPAIR

1 Mile North of Bird-in-Hand  
8 Miles East of Lancaster

RD1 Bird in-Hand, PA  
Gibbons Road

Phone [717] 656 7013

GARBER OIL CO.



Fuel Chief HEATING OIL

& OIL HEATING EQUIPMENT

AIR CONDITIONING

MOUNT JOY, PA.

Ph. 653-1821

**EVERY WEDNESDAY IS**

**DAIRY DAY**

**AT NEW HOLLAND SALES STABLES, INC.**  
New Holland, PA

If you need 1 cow or a truck load, we have from 100 to 200 cows to sell every week at your price. Mostly fresh and close springing Holsteins.

Cows from local farmers and our regular shippers including Marvin Eshleman, Glenn Fite, Gordon Fritz, Blaine Hoffer, Dale Hostetter, H. D. Matz, and Jerry Miller.

**SALE STARTS 12:30 SHARP**

Also Every Wednesday, Hay, Straw & Ear Corn Sale 12:00 Noon.

All Dairy Cows & Heifers must be eligible for Pennsylvania Health Charts.

For arrangements for special sales or herd dispersals at our barn or on your farm, contact:

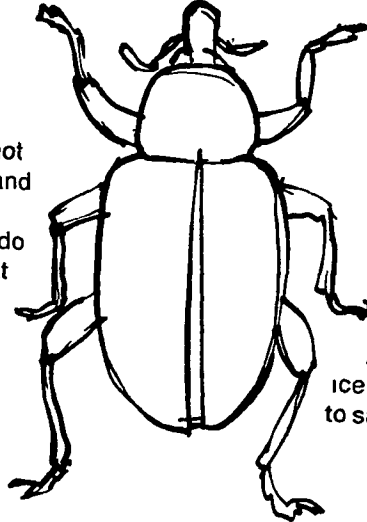
Abram Diffenbach, Mgr.  
717-354-4341  
OR  
Norman Kolb  
717-397-5538

**FRESH COWS**      **SPRINGERS**

**HEIFERS**      **STOCK BULLS**

# Alfalfa Weevil Control—

Who needs it?



Maybe you do. Maybe not We'll scout your fields and tell you. We'll do more. We'll advise on what to do about an infestation that needs treatment.

We'll probably suggest new Supracide<sup>®</sup> insecticide. We don't know of a weevil

control material that works better, or longer.

Also Controls Aphids, Spittlebugs & Leafhoppers.

A pretty complete service? You bet. It's designed to save you time, and make more alfalfa. Call us.

## P. L. ROHRER & BRO., INC.

SMOKETOWN, PA

PH. 717-299-2571

Supracide<sup>®</sup> trademark of CIBA-GEIGY for methidathion