On being a farm wife - and other hazards

By Joyce Bupp

What are ya' doin' New Year's Eve?

Our family usually just stays home, safely off the highways, or visits with friends nearby. But, a few years we have joined in celebrating at holiday parties.

The party I'll remember for the rest of my life, though, is the one I never got

It was my senior year in nigh school. Like most senior high school girls, I was fond of senior high boys especially the athletic type.

One in particular had been singled out. He was a bit more unusual than most; he was a farm boy.

When my close friend invited the farmer and I to her New Year's Eve party, we readily accepted the invitation. That night found us at the farm, hurrying to finish caring for his FFA animals and the few family milk cows. Never having lived on a farm, it was a treat for me to spend time in the barn; and the warm smells of hay and straw and the gentle animals erased the chilling dampness of the night air.

It soon became apparent that ushering in the new year was not the only event about to happen. Attendance at the party was going to be delayed. I picked up the phone and dialed the friend. "You're WHAT?" she

asked increduously. "We're delivering baby pigs," I told her again. There was dead silence on the other

end of the line. My sanity was obviously a lost cause. The Yorkshire sow took her own good time having

the tiny piglets. We spent a

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peaceful evening watching by her side, giving assistance, until the litter delivery was completed and the babies warm and nursing. The anticipation of the party faded away in the thrill of helping to bring new life into the world.

History, we all know, repeats itself. This New Year's Eve promises another pig delivery by that same farm boy, now the head of this "you wouldn't believe the things that happen around here" household.

Ah - one slight difference. This "litter" will arrive, wrapped and nicely tagged. The tags will read: pork chops, ribs, tenderloin, sausage, etc. Our resident freezer-hogs stuck their nosey snouts where they had no business once too often and therein met their ultimate ends.

So if having pork on January 1 brings good luck, it should be a fantastic 1977!

Dairy management meeting to be held

The Garden Spot Young Farmers will sponsor a dairy management meeting on January 4, 1977, at 7:30 p.m. in the agriculture classroom of the Garden Spot High School. The purpose of the meeting is to update area dairymen on some of the latest

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NEW HOLLAND, Pa. - developments in dairy management.

As part of the program, four speakers will discuss topics of concern to dairymen at the present time. Clarence Stauffer from the Holstein Association will speak on registration of grade Holsteins. Stauffer will also update the group on some of the latest information and procedures for dairy sire selection.

Gerald Hess, nutritionist from Young's Minerals, will discuss the "downer cow syndrome" which is caused from high protein levels in milk cows.

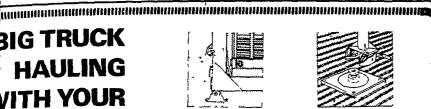
Due to the expected emphasis in the near future from dairies to have their producers moniter the temperature of milk in their bulk tanks, Gratz Sult, from C. B. Hoober & Son will present information on temperature recording thermometers. And, working in consultation with N. Alan Bair from the Lancaster County Extension Service, Don Robinson, adult farmer advisor, will present the progress of the DHIA experimentation with a Somatic Cell County Program.

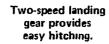
All area dairymen and interested agri-businessmen are invited to attend.



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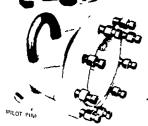
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