# On being a farm wife - and other hazards

By Joyce Bupp

Calendars are nifty things to have around the farm. One at the desk is full of notations about banquets, farm meetings, and business memos. One beside the kitchen sink keeps records of birthdays, anniversaries, dentist and doctor appointments. And the barn calendars retain important herd breeding dates, vet visits, and calf births.

This week, they all proclaimed the same noteworthy message - the first day of Spring had officially arrived. For a change, I was ahead of the calendar. I knew it was Spring without any written reminder. How? A yearly recurrence of a strange farm-related malady suddenly appeared. "Tractor fever" had struck again.

Symptoms of the affliction are subtle at first; only after years of experience can the observer point toward the eventual breakdown of the stricken subject. Offhand comments about oil leaks, transmission problems, and starter failures are reliable clues. Next, the subject will spend literally hours staring intently at the farm sale and machinery ads in the paper as he progresses to the second stage of the disease. At this point there may be slight side effects, such as odd slips of paper covered phone numbers with appearing in pockets, on desks, and randomly stuck to the office bulletin board. Newspapers will develop gaping holes as ads are stashed away for future reference.

Addiction to the telephone marks progression into the third stage. The receiver may attach itself to the ear of the sufferer for long periods of time, as prospects near and far are checked Your telephone company may give you a citation for meritorious service when they receive vour next payment.

By far the most crucial stage is the fourth. The afflicted will suddenly go off by himself for hours while looking over real live prospective tractors prescriptions at machinery dealers and farm sales. This stage may pass quickly or hang on for many weeks.

However, you will know the cure is at hand when he walks in the door one day with a smile and a selfsatisfied expression of accomplishment on his face. Yes, you have all survived

HERE'S THE 015.



"tractor fever" and lived to tell about it for another year.

Do you suppose someday modern scientific medicine might come up with a vaccination for this "bug" and take all his fun away?



## Tack sale set for April

The Boots and Saddles 4-H until 5 p.m. Bring any new or Club will hold their third annual tack sale to be held at the Fellenbaum Farm on Fruitville Pike half way between Manheim and Lancaster on April 1, 5 p.m. til 9 p.m. and April 2 9-a.m.

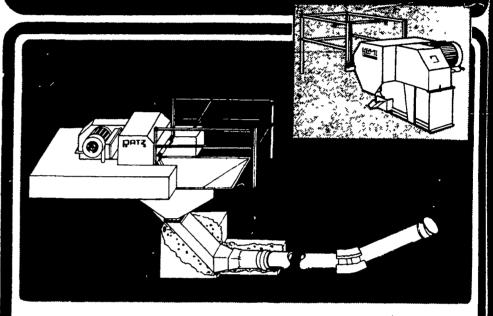
used tacks, clothing or horse related items to sell.

The club keeps 15 per cent of sale price. Bring items on April 1 between 12 and 5. Pick up money or unsold items on April 2 between 5

p.m. and 9 p.m. For further information call 569-3068 or 898-8476. Free coffee and a bake sale while you shop.

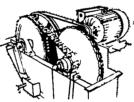


# the all new slurry manure pump

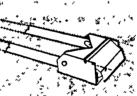


The Patz Slurry Manure Pump provides the ultimate solution to the moving of slurry liquid manure from dairy, beef, hogs or poultry installations to manure storage facilities.

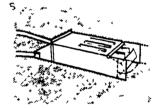
The new Patz Slurry Pump can move slurry and liquids up to 150 feet. The manure is supplied to an underground hopper with a gutter cleaner or scraper and is forced into a 12 inch P.V.C. pipe by means of an 8 inch by 15 inch plunger.



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MARVIN HORST

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