

LIFE on the farm

By Dieter Krieg, Editor

Easter -- a farmer just can't help but notice it

The day and its religious implications come at a most appropriate time every year. It's the day proclaiming the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ -- symbolizing new life in a miraculous way. But that's not all.

Take a look around and see what else has risen -- what all, in fact, rises every year at this time!

The singing robins are back. Flowers are up. The grass is turning green. Cows are roaming on pastures again. Trees are appearing in magnificent robes of a soft green texture. Plowed fields are releasing that fresh, earthy scent. Children are playing in sandboxes. Baby chicks and ducklings are hatching. The days are warmer and more welcome -- inviting us all and everything around us to live.

God has granted the entire northern hemisphere a new lease on life and the miracle of it all is sprouting up and out all around us. It's a beautiful time of year. The Easter story fits right in.

Mention Easter and "Life" comes to mind. And I think of Mother, since mothers are most symbolic of life

Mom always spent hours of her time preparing for an egg and chocolate hunt on the front lawn. Thoughts of Mother also bring flowers to mind, because Mom has never failed to spend a part of her Spring days with flowers.

Flowers are life and life is Easter. It all ties in. Easter -- Life -- Mother -- Flowers -- Beauty -- Spring -- Life -- and back to Easter.

Easter is a miracle, just like life itself is a miracle. We almost take a daily blossoming of life for granted, but oh how precious and irreplaceable it is! The birth of a calf, standing on wobbly legs and staring wide-eyed at the world. The emergence of flowers -- delicate petals pushing through soil which was frozen just a few weeks ago. The songs of robins as they lure the sun over the horizon each morning.

The Easter season has arrived and it's being proclaimed by all living creatures

Have a happy Easter, everyone!

Price Index up one per cent

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Index of Prices Received by Farmers increased two points (one per cent) to 189 per cent of its January-December 1967 average during the month ended March 15, 1977, USDA reports.

Contributing most to the increase since mid-February were higher prices for soybeans, oranges, cattle, and cotton. Lower prices for hogs, eggs, and milk were partially offsetting. The

Index was three points (1 1/2 pct.) above last year.

Prices received by farmers for poultry and eggs decreased nine points (five pct.) to 183 during the month. Prices for eggs at 58.8 cents per dozen showed a decline of 7.4 cents from February. Broilers brought 24.3 cents per lb., up three-tenths of a cent from February.

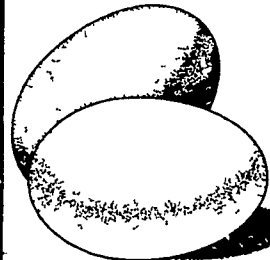
Prices received by farmers for fruit increased 10 points (eight pct.) to 132 during the month. Con-

tributing most to the increase were higher prices for oranges and apples. Lower prices for grapefruit and pears were slightly offsetting. The index was six points (four pct.) below a year earlier.

Prices received by farmers for dairy products decreased 3 points (1 1/2 pct.) to 187 during the month. All milk declined 12 cents to \$9.42 per cwt. Milk eligible for fluid market, at \$9.67 per cwt. declined 15 cents.

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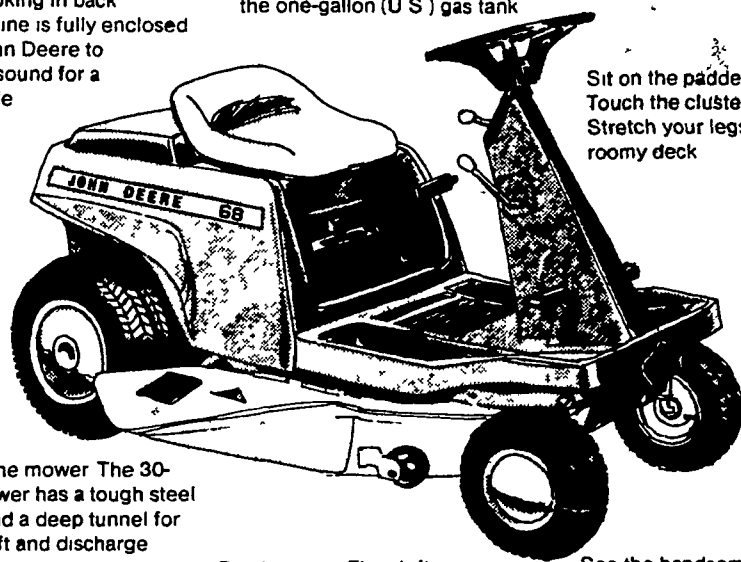
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