

LIFE on the farm

By Dieter Krieg, Editor

To see the birth of a day is to see the glorious unfolding of life and beauty and light.

If you're a farmer you know what I mean, for what man of the soil hasn't marveled at the clouds and sun that greet him early in the morning. A spectacular sunrise is awe inspiring.

And who hasn't paused to listen and appreciate the songs of robins and calls of owls, and crows and geese? Every farmer has witnessed these signs which proclaim a new Spring day has been born.

And the darkness of early morning, and the cool serenity you're enveloped in, aren't they refreshing too? The air is crisp and clean. There is a certain calmness about the countryside that's unparalleled during any other time of day.

Sometimes the pale light of a full moon still bathes the farm when the day begins. Once again, the resulting picture is unique and breathtaking, no matter how many times you've seen it before.

Yes, to see all of these scenes

unfold, is to witness the birth of a day. It can make you glad you're a farmer.

But what has given me even more joy than any of the above experiences is a moment in the house before I step outside. I tiptoe from the bedroom to the bathroom, and then to the kitchen to prepare a snack. I try to be quiet, but more often than not, something gives me away. It might be the tingling of a spoon in a bowl, or perhaps I was just blowing my nose.

From behind a closed bedroom door comes the call: "Hi Daddy."

If I don't answer, the calls keep coming: "Hi Daddy."

Talk about feeling good - the love of my children is the ultimate in pleasant experiences. And so I walk quietly into the child's room and absorb all the love that's offered.

That's the best way to start the day. After that, the songs of robins and the spectacular sky are just reflections of the joy I feel.

Milk price support legislation introduced

BATTLEBORO, Vt. — Legislation requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to set the milk price support at not less than 80 percent of parity through October, 1981, has been introduced into the 96th U.S. Congress.

"The Holstein Association favors this new legislation," said Robert H. Rumler, executive chairman of the Association. "The board of directors established a position of support on this and urges that this action be taken by Congress at the earliest possible date," he said.

The minimum support price for milk has been raised by Congress three times since 1949, the last occurring in 1977 which set the minimum at 80 percent of parity. This action expires in October, 1979.

One of the bills is in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 80 (Obey, Jeffords, Baldus); a comparison bill in the U.S. Senate is S.6 (Leahy). Both

bills are intended to keep parity at 80 percent.

"In reality, this is an extension of the present amendment to the Agricultural Act of 1949," Rumler said.

The Agricultural Act sets the support range from a minimum of 75 percent of parity to a maximum of 90 percent of parity. Parity is defined as the balance between the prices received by the farmer for his

products and the prices he has to pay for labor and for equipment and necessities based on 1910-1914 averages.

Programs of this sort set minimum prices to be paid to farmers, Rumler said, and let the market operate above that level while attempting to provide the same minimum prices to all farmers and processors in similar groups and circumstances.



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