

## Let sweets mature—don't harvest early

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — Don't harvest sweet potatoes too early. The sweet potato is a tropical plant and requires a long time to reach maturity. Most varieties take 120 days to mature, consequently sweet potatoes planted about May 15 will not be ready to harvest until the first week in October.

Sweet potatoes dug too early are often watery and flat tasting. Those that grow the full season should have a nut-like flavor.

Weather conditions also affect the sweet potato quality. If you are lucky enough to have dry, sunny weather about two weeks before harvest, the crop will partially cure in the soil and the quality will be superior.

Sweet potatoes should be dug with care and handled gently to avoid bruising the tender skin. Harvesting on a sunny day allows the roots to dry well before being placed in storage.

The crop should be cured as soon as it is dug. This means storing at 85 degrees in a compartment that has high humidity and good air ventilation. After ten days lower the temperature to 55 degrees.

Curing is very important. It hardens the skin and a corky layer of protective tissue forms. This protects the potatoes from excessive shrinkage and heals wounds that would otherwise become infected with storage rot.

## Study light horses at home

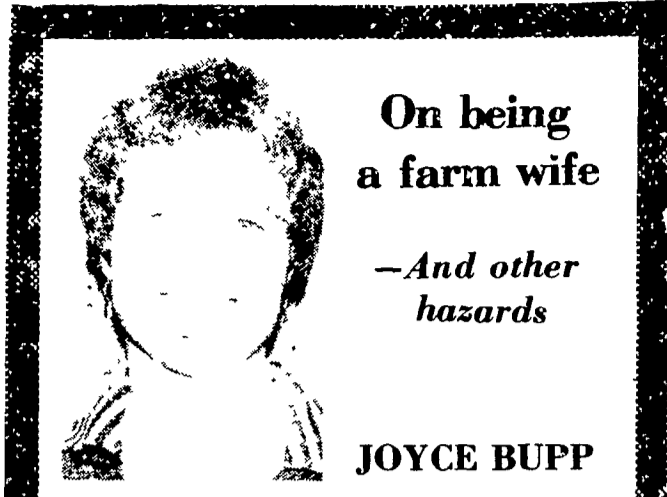
UNIVERSITY PARK - Available from the Correspondence Course office at Penn State is a course on Light Horses.

The 11-lesson course discusses: horse anatomy and selection; reproduction; parasites; buildings; equitation; training; breeds; stable management; and unsoundness.

According to the course, practice and training of both horses and riders are necessary for satisfactory performance. Riders must control their mounts and control is centered on the mental, not the muscular activities of the horse.

To help you enjoy horse ownership more, you should send for the course. Intended for the beginners, the information is valuable to members of riding clubs, and individuals who expect to buy a horse.

The course may be obtained by sending \$6.00, plus 25 cents postage, to LIGHT HORSES, Box 5000, University Park, PA 16802. Make check payable to Penn State.



On being a farm wife

—And other hazards

JOYCE BUPP

"Gee, I wonder what it would be like to be without kids?" mused a close friend just the other day.

A piercing shriek that accompanied my barefoot encounter with a cold, slippery sliver of peach on the kitchen floor had brought forth her speculation.

"Well, for one thing, my refrigerator wouldn't be labeled 'Garbage Dump,'" I replied, pointing out the green and white foot-square sign that the kids had fastened on the door.

Had we had the time. I might have given her several more examples:

—We would never experience the joy of creating pink and blue flecked pot pie dough because the kids had been using the rolling pin for Play-Doh creations;

—No one would ever park their toy tractor on the steps for me to find as I came down carrying a rounded-full basket of dirty laundry;

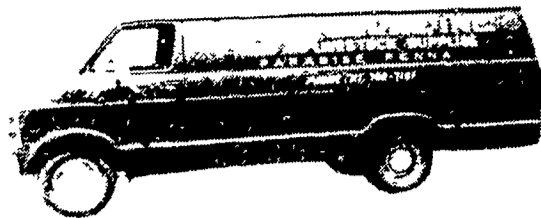
—My toes would not be permanently pock-marked from midnight meetings with in-

destructible plastic building blocks;

—There would not be five "Oh, mom, can't we bring them into the porch" kittens under my feet everytime I opened the back door;

—And I would have completely missed out on one profound truth about life: you can ride the sooper-dooper-looper roller coaster after age 30 and still live to tell about it. But just barely.

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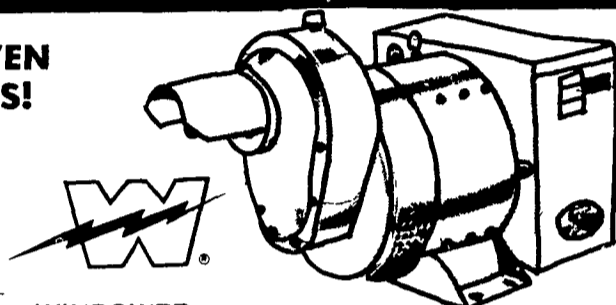
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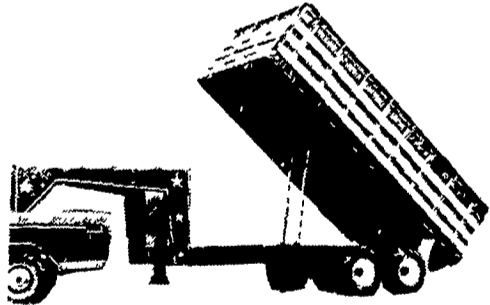


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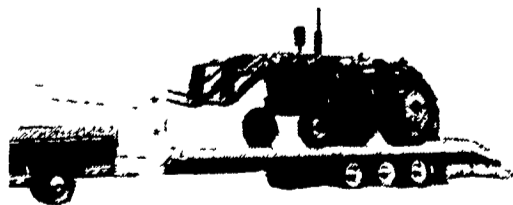
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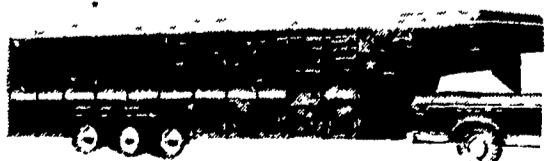
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