

**On being
a farm wife
- And other
hazards**
Joyce Bupp

One can't help but wonder if the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is about.

That nagging doubt has grown since the arrival of a form letter here recently, bearing the impressive signature of the United States Secretary of Agriculture, Bob Bergland.

Its message is direct. Six years ago, the nation's farmers responded to the government's call for "full production" by plowing up and planting every corner of marginal soil that vaguely promised to bring forth a crop of grain for the world's increased appetite for American's bushels of gold. Now, USDA is worried because some nine million acres of not-the-best farmland literally promise to be gone with the wind - and the rain - and the runoff. An estimated sixty million tons of topsoil are already just a memory.

So the letter culminates with one single directive slogan: **PLANT THE BEST AND SAVE THE REST.**

Tell me then, why, oh why, do our other federal bureaucracies continue ramrodding policies that snatch and hamstring rights from farmers already doing a super job husbanding the best soils in the nation.

The newest disgusting example is a proposal by the Department of the Interior to relocate a Cumberland County section of the famed Appalachian Trail. Using a portion of a 90 million dollar budget to relocate portions of the wilderness hiking route, officials would like to move 12 miles of the trail from its present position near highways and urban sprawl to less developed areas Sounds great.

Except for one little problem: the proposed permanent detour would require the feds taking ownership of a ribbon of land smack across numerous private farmland properties in some of the state's richest limestone corn and hay ground.

An alternate suggestion to relocate the Trail through government owned state park land has apparently already gotten the thumbs down vote.

And lest we forget, the Environmental Protection Agency is still coveting a section of York County land for a sewage effluent spray system, threatening the livelihood of a dairying family that's been on the same farm for over a century.

Agribusiness program available at Williamsport

WILLIAMSPORT — The Williamsport Area Community College offers a program in agribusiness beginning this month.

The course is designed to prepare men and women for mid-management positions in an agricultural business or to work in production agriculture as farm owners or supervisors.

Students may enroll in the following courses beginning January 14.

AGB 123
Field and Forage Crop Production
A study of the basic principles related to the

culture and production of grain crops and forage. 3 credits.

AGB 124
Agricultural Financing
The principles of financing applied to agribusiness. A look at the many sources of credit-private and governmental. Obtaining credit and its use. 3 credits.

AGB 125
Dairy Production
The feeding, management, breeding, milking, disease control, and housing of dairy cattle. 3 credits.

MGT 111
Business Mathematics Fundamentals of

mathematics as applied to business. 3 credits.

MGT 230
Business Communications
Application of communications skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking accurately, briefly, and clearly. 3 credits.

PED
Physical Education
Instruction and participation in a variety of activities. 1 credit.

This would be the first semester of a two-year

program working toward an associate degree in Agribusiness. The types of jobs available to students who earn a degree in Agribusiness are: Farm operator or manager; farm supply and garden center; feed, seed, and fertilizer sales; farm credit, financing, and insurance.

Interested persons should contact: Admissions Office, The Williamsport Area Community College, 1005 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

Schriefer earns college scholarship

CLEMENTON, N.J. — A Camden County 4-H'er was selected as this year's agriculture scholarship winner.

Gene Schriefer Jr., 18, of Atco, is the recipient of a \$200 college scholarship. The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture.

The scholarship is awarded alternately each year between members of 4-H clubs and Future Farmers of America. The individual selected must show academic excellence, community involvement and plan to follow a career in the area of agriculture.

Enough. Whoa.

Agreed — it's high time for careful plowing to preserve the best farmland for our future generations. Perhaps the deepest furrows should be dug through the bureaucratic muckland of Washington, D.C.

PLANT THE BEST AND SAVE THE REST.
But for what?

A freshman at Purdue University, Gene is majoring in agriculture education and animal science. He is a graduate of Moorestown Friends High School, where he was active in track, soccer and play productions.

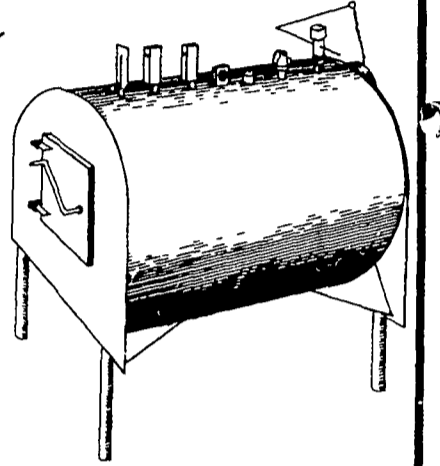
Gene is a nine year 4-H member of the Long-A-Coming 4-H Horse club. As a 4-H'er, he participated in the county horse judging team, horse bowl, and trailride teams representing Camden County in statewide events. He has also participated in the New Jersey 4-H State Horse Show for the past two years.

Speed of Birds

Experts estimate that vultures can fly at speeds of more than 100 miles per hour, wild goose and the swallow — in their migrations — make 90 miles an hour and the common crow cruises at 25 miles per hour

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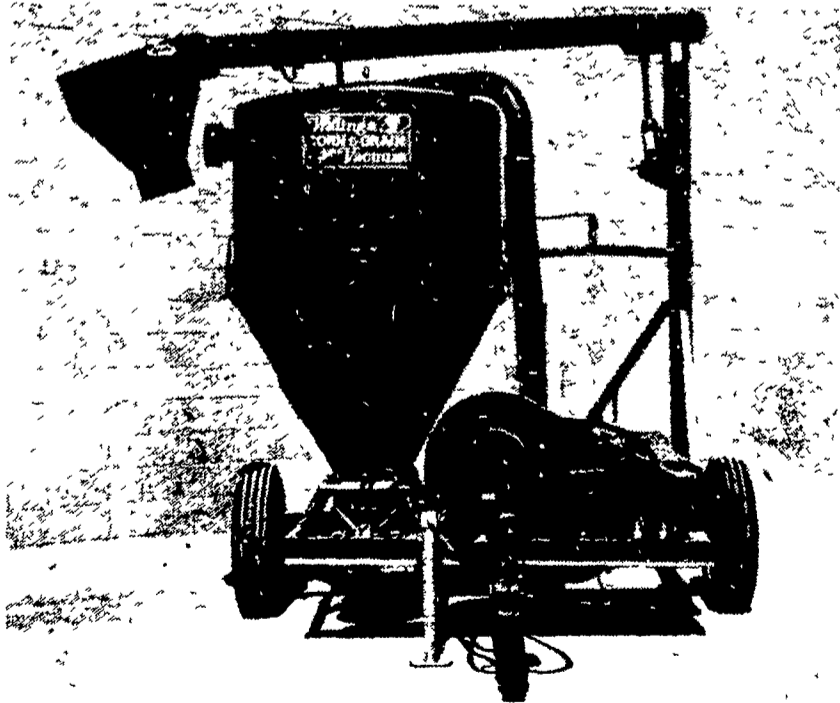
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