



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

**Joyce Bupp**

Disking is for daydreamers. And since I can very easily slip into a daydreaming state, disking falls among my top-ranked farm jobs.

What's especially neat about running the disk is that it makes you feel that you've really accomplished something without concentrating all that much mental or physical effort.

Just climb up onto the tractor seat, pushbutton the horsepower into roaring sound, throw'er into gear, throttle up, hit the hydraulic lever to lower the blades — and away we go!

Behind the rotating, clanking rows of sharp steel circles, soil turns over dark brown, rich and moist. Its wholesome, earthy fragrance blends with the pungent bouquet of diesel fumes, recently-spread manure and just a light lingering whiff of the clump of garlic I hit back along the fence row.

Early evening, both the farmer and I agree, is our favorite time for field work. Overhead, the amphitheater

of Heaven is a crystal clear deepening blue. Off in the distant western sky, a few tiny cloud puffs glow golden, then orange, fading to pink and into a majestic lavender, as the sun beds down behind the horizon.

Contour strips undulate across the hill, the heads in the barley fields changing from a sunwashed char-treuse to more solemn nighttime garb of kelly green. Dampness suddenly weighs and cools the air, collecting in the lower curves of the field and chilling fingers and ears in the hurry to finish a few last trips around.

In the gathering dusk, a parade of black and white heifers troop single file up through the adjoining meadow, arriving with clock-like timing each night for their evening rations of forage and grains. Gathering patiently before the closed gates, they group into small clusters, spending the interim in gossip of sweet clover and errant fence jumpers.

Darkness hurries now as

the last uneven corner of soil is turned. Heat from the throbbing engine flows back across the tractor hood and warms my cheeks. Lights in the milking parlor are warm and welcoming, with their cheerful yellow glow out beyond the house. Fritz, having trotted beside the equipment all evening long

in ever-loyal dog companionship, pants with tired legs and drooping tongue.

Ears ring with the sudden silence when the motor dies and the noisy train is stilled at the end of the field. Another bit of Spring work is complete. And for now, daydreaming time must come to an end.

**Camden County  
holds 4-H public  
presentation event**

CLEMENTON, N.J. — Camden County 4-H'ers talked their way through the annual public presentation event held at Overbrook Junior High School.

The 4-H'ers planned a presentation from one of these categories: speech, dramatics, demonstrations or illustrated talk. Ribbon scores were given to each participant.

The public presentations are an opportunity for 4-H'ers to gain poise in front of groups, while learning the correct components of forensics. Judges for this event were Linda Hanna, Donna MacNeir, Helen Andress, Claire Eagan and Eleanor Gillfillan.

4-H'ers who participated and received excellent ratings were Jaelyn Rearick, Kelly Galloway, Emily Lines, Laurie Feller, Jessie Miller, Kelly Behrens, all of Cherry Hill; Lisa Post

and Terry Gilson of Collingswood, Margaretann Ewan, Jim Ewan, and Alexandra Ewan of Cedar Brook; Karen Valvardi, Erial; Karen Paoello, Bill Paoello, Carol Paoello of Blue Anchor; and Donna Spreng, Chews Landing.

Receiving very good ratings were Sandy Trotter, Collingswood, and Harold Ewan, of Cedar Brook. Joyce Paoello received a citation in the prep division.

Those 4-H'ers who are at least 14 years of age and received an excellent rating will represent Camden County at the state presentations held at Cook College, Thursday, June 26. Representing Camden County will be Jaelyn Rearick, Alexandra Ewan, Karen Valvardi and Donna Spreng.

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