

On being a farm wife - And other hazards Joyce Bupp

Okay friends, the time has come to de-bunk another of those great American myths.

Easter eggs are not mass produced by that fuzzy, adorable little Easter Bunny.

Nosiree. Just lay that old idea away to rest.

Let me tell you where those Easter eggs do originate.

They're being individually crafted by a brigade of feisty bantam hens staked out at various posts in our old barn.

No Easter Bunny could ever hop through Spring with more single-purposeness than these biddies. Their lone, all-consuming mission in life at the moment is to produce, produce, produce.

Nothing will deter them.

Cats idling by their nests win a low growl that rumbles from beneath an awesome puffed-up chest of feathers. Any cat not taking that clear-out hunt, or poking a bewhiskered nose within pecking distance, will likely come away wounded.

And dogs deserve equal treatment. Or worse.

Humans, though, pose an even worse threat to these non-stop,

non-unionized, production-oriented poultry friends.

Two-legged pests that they are, humans are hen home-wreckers. They are totally unsympathetic with a hen's need to round out a hollow in the straw beneath the heifer feeder where one can spread wings over the security of a nest of twenty warm, promising eggs.

No. Those rascals persist in pilfering the production.

Or let a hen set up housekeeping on the bale of hay stacked next to the heifer pen door. Not only does the egg get lifted, someone adds insult to injury by feeding the nest to the bawling calves.

Knowing the seasonal demand for the hens' output, we'll just continue to swipe the goods as we find them.

But if you run smack up against an egg shortage this weekend, you can figure those hens finally outsmarted the cats, dogs and yours truly by taking off to raise a family in parts unknown.

And to think we have the nerve to call these birds "chicken."

Eggs or no eggs — have a Happy Easter!

WASHINGTON — Three men received the "National Partner-in-4-H Award", 4-H's highest recognition during the 51st National 4-H Conference at the National 4-H Center here this past week.

Winners are Donald Wildrick, president of Wildrick and Miller, an advertising-public relations agency in New York City; Kenneth B. Hoyt, director of the Office of Career Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.; and U.S. Senator Larry Pressler of South Dakota.

The award recognizes "exemplary, significant and distinctive contributions to the 4-H program over a period of years," said Eugene Williams, deputy administrator for 4-H in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Science and Administration-Extension.

Wildrick was cited for his contributions and service to 4-H through encouraging private sector involvement in 4-H programs, including awards, educational materials, corporate leadership and technical assistance.

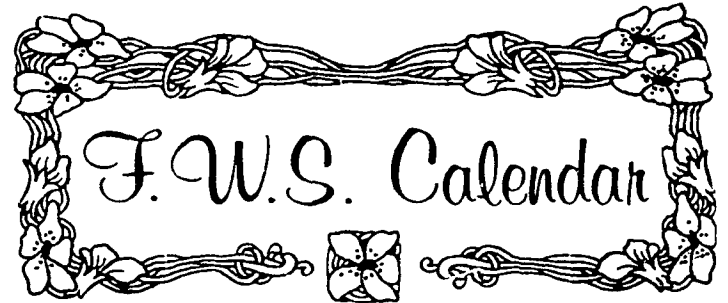
Hoyt was honored for providing resources to encourage 4-H involvement in economics, jobs and

career programs, and for making possible 4-H involvement in national career education consultations and studies.

Senator Pressler, a former 4-H member, was chosen for the honor because of his contributions to furthering 4-H youth programs, for continuing participation in 4-H activities and support of resources for 4-H. He will address the closing session Friday.

More than 300 delegates from 46 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia attended the conference. They represent more than 5 million 4-H members and 575,000 adult 4-H volunteer leaders across the nation.

Ten delegates from Canada are participating as a part of the Canada-United States 4-H exchange program.



Saturday, April 18

Lancaster Co. Society 3 entertains Society 26 at the Salem Lutheran Church

Lancaster 18 to hold a fun day

Lancaster 12 holds a silent auction

Monday, April 20

Lancaster Society 31 meets for a craft program with hostess Vickie LeFevre

Tuesday, April 21

Berks Society 6 celebrates its 15th anniversary

Thursday, April 23

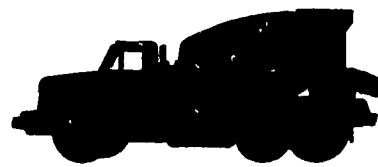
Lancaster Society 26 entertains Society 16 at the St. John's Lutheran Church, Maytown

Lancaster 28 meets with Lois Kalb to hear a speaker from Hospice

Saturday, April 25

Lancaster 24 to participate in a Lancaster walking tour with Mary Ann Greiner

Lancaster Society 4 meets at the Mountville Church of the Brethren to entertain Society 27



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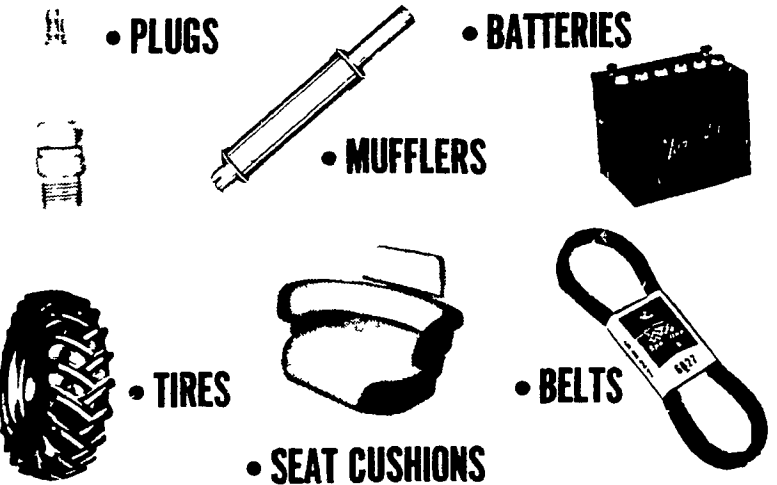
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