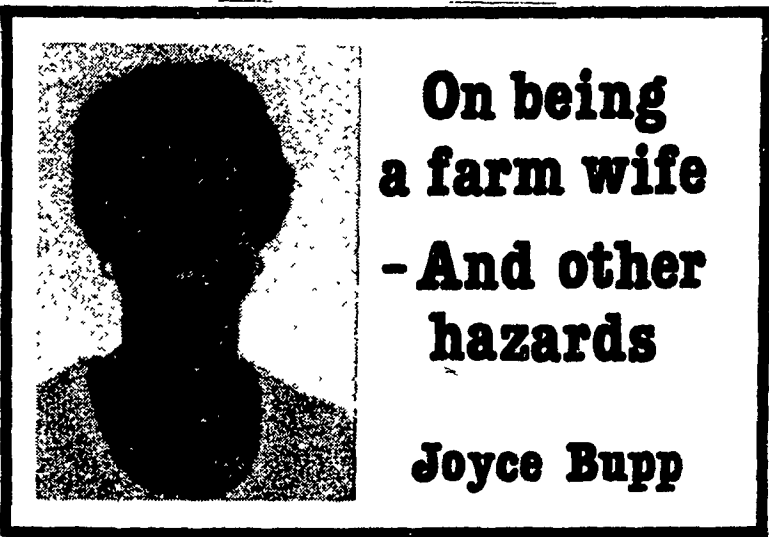


Hallowell praises Areas Act



On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp

HAY THERE....

Oh cow, can you appreciate
The love we've tied up in these bales,
So you can lounge and chew your cud
Through Winter's cold and stormy gales?

We till the fields, then plant them thick,
Alfalfa stands all lush and green,
Their purple blooms in contrast sharp
With golden grain fields set between.

Mid summer's warmth the hay is mown
Then tumbled into windrows thick,
With hopes the sun will glare intense
To cure the hay for harvest quick.

The baler gobbles up each row
With clanging parts and noisy din
Then tosses bales toward wagons deep.
With luck, they'll sail and land within.

Chocked to the brim with twine-tied packs
A wagon lumbers to the mow.
In wrestling hay from field to barn,
The job's worst moments come right now.

'Midst screeching chains and scraping slats
The elevator activates.
While bales start up to head aloft
Through clouds of dust this task creates.

From high atop the load of green
Six bales go tumbling off askance,
And earn the kid atop the load
A somewhat less-than-thankful glance.

Sun's heat beats down upon the scene
While beads of sweat pour from the brow
To trickle into bleary eyes
Of those who stack bales in the mow.

As muscles ripple in the heat
The towering load appears diminished.
A tired sigh, the floor's in sight,
Another wagon load is finished!

HARRISBURG — State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell recently called Governor Dick Thornburgh's signing of HB 143 "a major step forward in our efforts to help protect the family farm and our farmland resources."

Hallowell told representatives of the state's farm organizations, "The Agricultural Areas Act could well be the foundation on which our efforts to preserve agricultural land is built. The idea of agricultural 'enterprise zones' created voluntarily by landowners with the cooperation of local governments is certainly a step toward a final solution to this highly important issue."

He noted the Agricultural Areas Act would work hand-in-hand with other measures in the Governor's family farm preservation initiative.

"The family farm has traditionally been the backbone of Pennsylvania's economic stability," he said. "The actions taken by the Governor and the General Assembly in the past two years should have a positive economic impact on the farm community, help preserve our farmlands and support new development in the rural economy."

The state's farm organizations

and the Agriculture Department had given the passage of HB 143 top priority during the current session of the General Assembly. Hallowell said the cooperation and dedication of farm and local government organizations finally helped win passage of the act.

In the past 20 years, more than four million acres of Pennsylvania farmland and 45,000 family farms have been lost to agriculture due to economic and development pressures. Hallowell said the loss of these farms had not had a serious detrimental effect on the food supply only because of "farmers' tremendous record of production."

"However," he noted, "as the best lands near urban areas — well suited for development — go into other uses, lesser quality land must be used, resulting in higher costs to the farmer, increased

erosion and lower yields.

"Governor Thornburgh's family farm initiatives, which allow local control, voluntary participation and positive incentive for farmers, are helping us keep our prime farmlands in productive agricultural use. The Agricultural Areas Act will give farmers and local governments another tool to protect our family farming operations," he said.

"The needs of the farmer and consumer are interdependent. We cannot afford to neglect the protection of our family farms, because as land goes out of production, the consumer eventually pays the price in the store," he said. "Preservation of the family farm in Pennsylvania is essential to the continued economic and environmental stability of the state and each local community."

York Holstein Assn. picnic

YORK — Dairy promotion and cattle judging will be among the highlights of the York County Holstein Association's summer picnic and chicken barbeque, scheduled for Thursday, July 23, at

Bupplynn Farms near Seven Valleys.

Judging of cattle classes will open the program at 10 a.m., with prizes to be awarded to winners in several divisions. Features speaker is Dick Norton, manager of the Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing and Promotion Agency of Towson, Maryland.

Final deadline for ticket reservations is July 16, and tickets can be obtained through the Extension office at 757-9657 or any Holstein director. Cost is \$2.50 for adults, and \$1.50 for youth, 4-H and FFA members.-JB.

A drink of water soothes the throat
Of this exhausted, scratched-up mother.
And just the time we think we're through,
Oh no - good grief - here comes another!

So cow - as you commence your cud
Take note, these bruises black and blue,
And meditate that they were earned
To put this hay away — for you.

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