

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

Especially interesting in life on a farm is the number of strange things that turn up in unusual places around a farmstead.

Just give us farm wives a chance to explain, though, why certain things are where they are.

Take the sneakers parked next to the milk tank compressor, for instance. They weren't really left there by accident.

You see, that compressor blows off a tremendous quantity of warm air as the motor cools the milk flowing into the tank during milking hours. I've discovered it's a fantastic place to solidify sneakers that just otherwise refuse to dry in the long stretches of sodden, soggy weather we've experienced lately.

And you don't have to listen to that thudding, clumping sound they make when they're tumbled in an electric dryer. Fact is, things dry so well I'm considering stringing clothes lines through the farm office-utility room for the winter.

I'll bet the milk inspector love'd that.

The same efficient drying element also came in handy for a last minute (is there any other way to do things) silver-spray-paint job on a large cardboard box needed for a 4-H activity. The quick-dry faculty saved us from explaining why our 4-H'ers were parading around in Red Man Tobacco boxes instead of the latest in teenage designer fashions.

A large box of aluminum foil was last seen leaving the kitchen to envelope an extremely reluctant

small Guernsey calf. Blame that on 4-H, too.

Farm refrigerators are also known to sometimes house alien objects. One familiar item on many dairy farmers is a container of thick, yellowish colostrum being saved for newborn calves.

There's a logical reason, though. Feedings of that colostrum, nature's own protection against disease in baby animals, frequently makes the difference between life and death for a cold, weak newborn.

We'll make room in our refrigerator and freezer for colostrum any day.

But a dear farm wife friend recently confided storing something in her freezer that I trust has never been in mine.

A container of bugs.

Seems her children had taken up the summer-time hobby of insect collecting. And, not having the proper mounting equipment at the time the insects were snagged, she preserved the specimens via freeze-drying.

Even the bugs later had to be moved for something that would have even less chance getting in our freezer.

A couple dozen frozen pies.

Imagine, having pies, real fruit pies, stashed in the freezer for later use.

-To one whose too infrequently-baked pies never make it past the supper-table, that - to borrow a phrase - is incredible.

Kenneth Moore family shows 4 breed champions

YORK — Several hundred sheep paraded before judges at this year's York Fair, with open class trophies going to both local exhibitors as well as several out-of-town entries.

Cheviot blue ribbons were all claimed by Kenneth T. Moore, Jr., of Nichols, New York, while Erdenheim Farm, of Lafayette Hill, collected several second place reds.

One of the larger divisions was the Hampshire breed, with seven herds taking part in the judging. Kenneth T. Moore, Jr., of Nichols, New York, again claimed several of the blues in the Hamp showing, including champion and reserve champion ram.

Dirk and Patricia Niltz, Hampton, New Jersey, took the Hampshire ewe championship, with reserve going to Stewart Ebersole and Son of York.

Natural colored sheep, those animals with any shade of wool other than the familiar cream-color, are becoming increasingly popular and drawing more exhibitors. Ron Chacey of Amesville, Ohio, won that class ram championship, over reserve winner Billie Andrews of Spring Grove. Both top ewe awards went to Randy Irwin, Freeland, Maryland.

Greg Lau, Loganville, was named champion ram exhibitors in the Oxford division, over reserve winner Bixler farms. Lau also took both female champion and reserve rosettes.

Polled Dorset classes again brought honors to the Kenneth Moore family, Nichols, New York,

taking the grand in both ram and ewe categories. Reserve ram awards went to Michael Carpenter, Jefferson, Maryland, and Yorker Greg Strausbaugh earned the reserve ewe ribbons.

W. Carpenter and son, Jefferson, Maryland, won the champion Southdown ram designation, over reserve winner Gerald and Barbara Rohrer of Quarryville. Those same exhibitors traded spots when the female championship placing was finished.

Suffolk top winnings also went to two exhibitors, with K. and J. Sheep Company, Jefferson, Maryland, showing the champion ram over reserve winner Troy Ness of Dallastown. Ness took the female championship, over K. and J.

Charles and Barbara Platt, Gettysburg, garnered the female champion and-reserve ribbons in Shropshire showing, with the ram championship claimed by Kenneth Moore, Nichols, New York. Reserve ram placing went to Spring Bottom Farm, Fairfield.

Kenneth Moore also made a clean sweep of the Rambouillet division, taking all the champion rosettes, as well as all the blues.

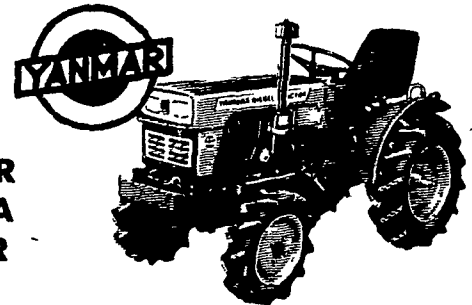
Three divisions had only one exhibitor each. Sigler Dorsett Sheep Farm of York were the lone competitors in the Horned Dorset classes, Charles and Barbara Platt of Gettysburg exhibited in the Merino classes, and Mary Blanchard, Airville, was the sole entrant with Corriedales.—J.B.

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