

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp

"Well, now that was one Sunday afternoon that was really worthwhile," our teenager concluded as the sunset wrote a curtain call for a perfect October weekend.

And that opinion, coming from one whose likely description of a majority of activities is "boring!", is no small compliment.

We had not gone out to dinner. We had not gone to the movies, or a sporting event, a meeting, a get-together, or even turned on the television.

We had simply stayed home.

But there's so much to do here at home.

Like work on the bike invented by the big and small farmers. Using an accumulation of old bike parts in the shop, they'd taken a few moments of the glorious afternoon to finish a "chopper" bicycle, styled after those strange looking motorcycles with the front wheel stretched out way ahead.

We now own the silliest looking bike in the neighborhood.

This was not boring. This was worthwhile.

Next came a hike down through the pasture, accompanied by the

usual un-boring chasing the minnows and jumping across the creek until at least one sneaker is good and soggy.

In the pasture fencerow stands a venerable, aged, pear tree, that has seen many moons. Climbing that tree, leaning your weight against a branch laden with yellow-green fruit, and shaking pears down on your brother's and mother's heads is not boring.

Even less boring is watching mother mount her bike, one hand clutching a bulging bag of pears, the other wrapped around a cluster of bittersweet branches, and try to ride back home on the bumpy field road.

And observing mother disappear into the cornfield as she loses control of the bike is certainly not boring.

Other highlights of a worthwhile afternoon include lugging the fat lamb on the pickup for a ride to meet a handsome ram. Or watching the neighbor's adorable new baby pigs, or hauling home the pumpkins he's given you, while pestering that they be turned into pies immediately.

August CPI reflects higher meat prices

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Higher retail meat prices last month were the main cause of the four percent rise-before seasonal adjustment-in the consumer price index (CPI) for food in August, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture William Leshner said today.

"The August increase in food prices brought the food CPI to a level 7.2 percent higher than a year earlier," Leshner said, "continuing the pattern of food prices rising less than prices for nonfood items."

Leshner said he expects this year's rise in retail food prices to be about 8 percent, thereby moderating the general inflation rate. This compares to last year's 8.6-percent increase and would be the sixth time in the last seven years that food prices have risen less than prices for nonfood goods and services.

Food marketing costs will account for about two-thirds of this year's food price increase. About one-fourth will be attributed to a higher farm value of foods. The remainder will be due to higher costs for imported foods and fish.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics

An impromptu doggie roast in the back yard, a prelude to the regular evening milking chores, wrapped up our non-boring Sunday.

I've long believed that today's kids are over-involved, over-chauffered, and simply overwhelmed with their abundance of activities.

Maybe they just need more time to be kids.

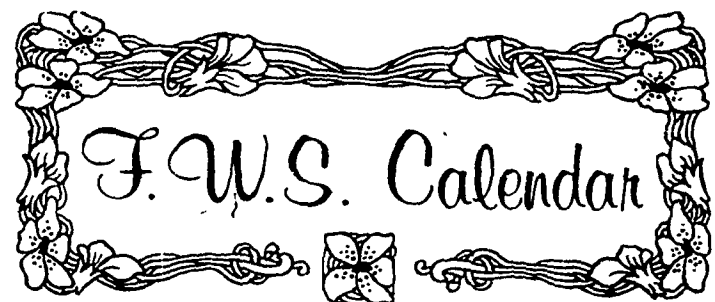
released the August consumer price index earlier today.

"Food prices at grocery stores rose four percent as did prices for meals purchased away from home," Leshner said. "Meat prices increased nine percent in July, led by a 1.6 percent rise in pork prices. This reflected lower hog slaughter in July."

Regarding prices for other foods, higher marketing costs offset a lower farm value for cereals and bakery products, pushing prices for these foods up 0.1 percent,

Leshner said. Declining supplies of apples from cold storage and lower California orange production pushed fresh fruit prices up 5.1 percent.

Lower potato prices offset higher prices for lettuce and tomatoes, pushing the CPI for fresh vegetables down 3.5 percent. Dairy products prices fell 0.2 percent as continued large milk production offset rising marketing costs. The CPI for fats and oils rose only 0.2 percent, reflecting large supplies.



Saturday, October 10

Lancaster Co. Society 22 meets for their 30th anniversary; entertainment by Society 32

Berks Co. Society 5 meets for Everybody's Birthday night

Lancaster Society 19 meets with Mildred Lehman for the Laotian Family

Lancaster 13 meets for their 50th anniversary banquet; entertainment by Society 23

Lancaster Society 1 meets with hostess Hazel Ulrich; speaker is Sandy Curlee on butterflies

Monday, October 12

Lancaster Society 32 meets for a mystery dinner to entertain Society 22

Wednesday, October 14

York Society 9 meets with hostess Anna Butcher

York Society 7 meets with Beatrice Heindel

Lancaster Society 14 meets with Jean Thomas

Thursday, October 15

Lancaster Society 15 to watch a flower arrangement program by Sarah Hess

Saturday, October 17

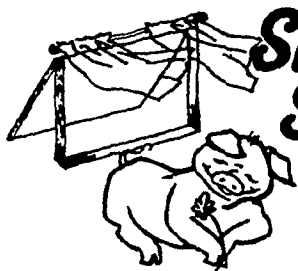
Lancaster Society 3 takes a trip to Gettysburg

Lancaster Society 18 to hear Alice Dourte present a musical presentation

Lancaster Society 12 to do work for the Needlework Guild

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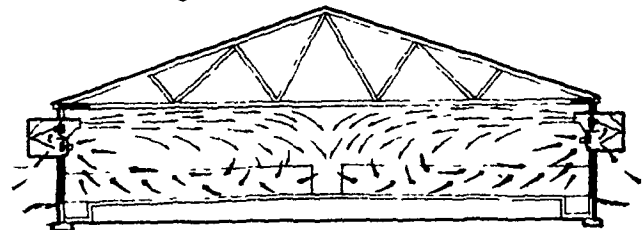
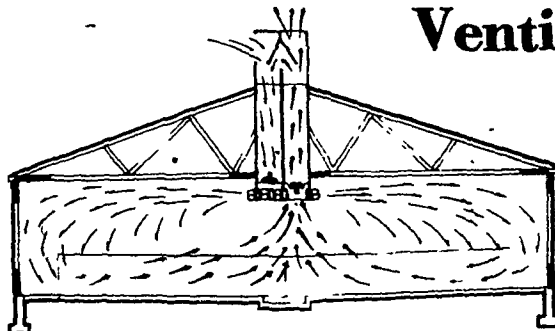


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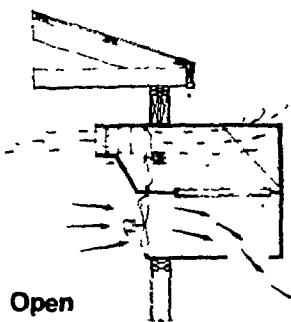
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- Lower condensation
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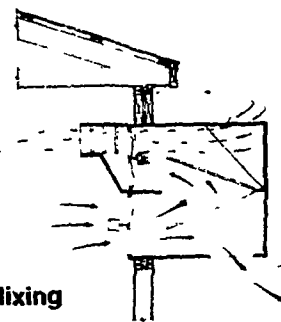
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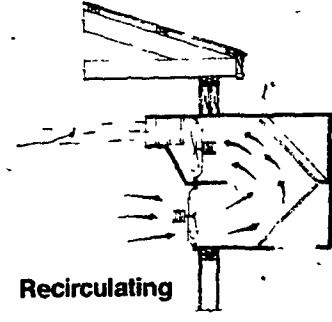
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