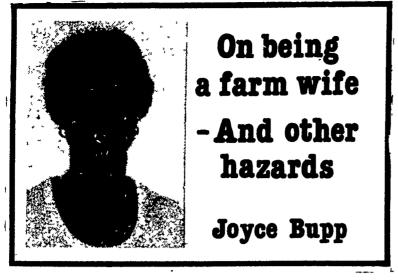
84—Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 27, 1982



"Do bees perspire?"

Although I'd fielded a host of questions over many years of being a farm wife, that was a new one.

It was National Ag Day, and along with several other representatives of the Farmers Association and Agri-Women of York County, I was in an elementary school sharing agriculture information with delightfully curious children.

Armed with slides, films, printed handouts, commodity displays, and even animals, agriculture representatives across the nation reached out on Ag Day with the story of America's miraculous food producing capabilities.

Questions, questions, and more questions, as only classrooms of inquisitive youngsters can ask. marked many of these sessions. "How many apples does a tree produce?"

Sticky situation proves worthwhile

(Continued from Page 52)

enjoys the most is an old Indian legend.

"The legend says that an Indian boy was practicing his tomahawk skills and hit a tree dead center, and immediately the sap began to flow freely. The Indian boy amazed, touched the sap, then tasted it. Liking the mildly sweet taste, he carried some back to his village. Naturally, the sap didn't keep long, but the Indian boy went back for more and this time they cooked it among hot rock. That was the beginning of syrup according to this legend," said Peggy.

Regardless of how it was discovered, the Wolf family enjoys the sweet syrup on pancakes. waffles, and french toast. But Peg am

tea. Peggy also makes maple candy out of her late season sap. Peggy said that the late season sap has less sugar in it and a slight bark taste, so it is better to use it in a food item than for the syrup.

Peggy said she also enjoys giving the syrup as gifts to friends and family during the holidays. She remarked hesitantly, "I always hear raving reports about the homemade syrup in comparison to the store-bought product. She stated, "It isn't just my syrup, but any homemade syrup; it has a mildly sweet taste and a rich creamy texture that just can't be produced in the factory.

Though Peggy never intends to give Log Cabin or Aunt Jemima a run for their money, at least among her family and friends.



"Do many cows die from "Gross!" The point was, of course, others from food production to disease?"

"Where do they grow Jalapeno peppers?" (This from a fourthgrade taco fan with a yen for hot peppers.)

"Is this stuff made from whiskey?" (The "stuff" was highmoisture corn, normally fed to our dairy herd, and the similar odor is undeniable.)

"How much milk does a goatcow-produce?"

"How much feed does a pig-cowlamb-goat-eat?"

"Do they really cut chickens' heads off?" (And this from a girl with a nose wrinkling in horror as she asked the question)

What a marvelous opportunity to talk about modern agriculture. It was a chance to explain that animals can use foods in many forms not eaten by people ("How would you like to have this haylage for lunch?" inevitably brought out a loud "Yuk!").

It was a chance to explain that, many years ago, people had to buy poultry with the heads and feet still on them with the buyer having to funsh the job at home (which brought out another resounding "Yuk!") but that today's processing makes it much easier and more convenient to enjoy fried

And my personal favorite was to ask the children how they'd like to bite into an apple and find part of a worm left, resulting in a vocal, chorus of moans, groans, and

that if we want insect and disease free food, some careful use of farm chemicals is an absolute necessity.

Back a few decades ago, when most of America lived on, or was closely tied to, a farm, such ag outreach projects would have served no purpose. But today, as fewer and fewer farmers free

follow a host of other pursuits that make up our society, occasions such as Ag Day lend an opportunity to strengthen public knowledge about farming. One thing I'm still not sure about

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though. Do bees perspire?

Heifer Project

seeks honeybees

LANCASTER — So you thought that Heifer Project International worked entirely with heifers, eh? A wise guess considering the name under which the organization works. However, the HPI, having begun their work in 1942, has expanded over the years to include pigs, poultry, goats, sheep, rabbits and honeybees — a far cry from the original heifer project effort.

Currently the Manheim area has prepared forty hives of honeybees for shipment to rural families in Kentucky and West Virginia. The honey provided by the bees will provide these families with food and extra income.

But even more important, according to spokesperson Dan Fitzkee of Manheim, is the pollination done by the honeybees. Good pollination plays an essential part in the overall goal of mcreasing yields and quality of

HPI is in need of more honeybees and equipment Fitzkee says. If you have any you would be willing to donate or sell, contact Fitzkee at

(717) 665-5743. During 1982, HPI will be working op projects in Africa, Europe, Asia, the Caribbean islands and Latin America, plus 15 states in the United States.

HPI is a non-denominational organization dedicated to assisting poor families to produce more food and income for themselves. The organization provides top grade animals, and sees that recipients are trained in animal care and management to ensure the health of the animal and self-suffiency on the part of the recipient.

Funding for the HPI projects is derived from churches and other orgnizations as well as individuals.-DK

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