

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



"Mom!"
In the still morning air, the call came loud and clear from below the barn, as we hurried to finish chores Sunday morning.

Half the family was already moved into the Farm Show, tending the cattle show string.

The other half was home, helping with the work, but with plans to head north to Harrisburg with supplies just as soon as the last heifers had been fed and watered.

"Mom! She's starting!"

Why, oh why, hadn't we counted ahead before bringing home the borrowed boar hog those three months, three weeks and three days ago? But when Atomic and Bomb (remember those two trouble-making hogs?) had been ready for breeding that certain day, the enthusiasm of their young owner to expand his pig inventory had overwhelmed such logical thinking.

"Mom! Hurry up!"
During the night Atomic had broken her farrowing crate, mashed the heat lamp ready for the infants and stretched out in the bed of fresh shavings.

By the time I made it down to the pigpen maternity ward, she had already delivered two piglets, one born dead. Leaving the 11-year-old intern to assist briefly in the deliveries, I ran up to the house for surgical equipment.

A sharp scissors and string would help us tie off the long umbilical cords - as I'd been carefully instructed in doing the day before - and clean, dry rags would help dry the shivering, tiny newborns.

Two and a half hours - and fourteen more babies - later, she had finished. Three had been born dead, not unusual for a first-time

gilt. We coaxed her back into the crate to keep the weary mother from laying on the infants.

A call to the Mummerts, some of our super neighbors, brought the loan of not one, but two, heat lamps for emergency replacement.

Still no action from the adjacent pen, where Bomb lay stretched and trembling, obviously in labor discomfort. Morning became noon and stretched toward dusk. Still nothing. Exhausted from deliveries and concern, our junior hog breeder fell into a deep sleep on the couch.

In a short period between putting the cows back into the barn and starting the evening milking, Bomb started to do her thing. Three bouncing babies, healthy and nursing.

It was an encouraging start. But as evening aged into late night, a long additional seven hours of labor took a heavy toll. Ten stillborns. Five babies nursing. In her anguish and fatigue, plus lack of a crate for confinement, two more were lost before morning as she settled down against the pen's wall.

Eventually, four from the first litter joined the smaller group, since their own mother simply could not physically feed all her offspring.

One tired youngster left for school, rejoicing in his population explosion, and accepting the accompanying losses with remarkable resiliency.

And with that classic, undaunted optimism about the future, akin to true blue farmers, he approached one emotionally-drained, pig-mid wife-mother with this proposal:

"Gee Mom, what if I decide to keep all these, and breed them too?"

FARM SHOW — Adding to the beauty of this year's Farm Show were the many plants on display. Here are the results:

- FLOWERING HOUSE PLANTS**
African Violets
1 Ellen Hanson Lebanon Vo-tech 2 David Morgan Bucks Co AVTS 3 Deb Betz Lebanon Vo-tech
- Hanging Baskets**
1 Ellen Hanson Lebanon Vo-tech 2 Linda Attwood 1146 Cedar Ave 3 Steve Groff Mt Joy R3
- Poinsettias**
1 Celeste Markovich Warminster 2 Kim Chenderain Warminster 3 Deb Brosius Elizabethtown
- FOLIAGE HOUSE PLANTS**
Cyclamens
1 Regina Heisey 916 Hillary Ave 2 Celeste Markovich Warminster 3 Cindy King Manheim
- Collection of Cacti**
1 Dave Morgan Lower Bucks 2 Terri Mason Harrisburg 3 Kathy McLHenry Harrisburg

- Foliage Plant**
1 Rennir McDonnrl Middle Bucks AVTS 2 Ellen Hanson Lebanon Vo-tech 3 Linda Attwood Croydon
- Ferns**
2 Kathy Johnson Middle Bucks AVTS 3 Kim Massara Furling
- Potted Ivy**
2 Cindy Heisey Lebanon Vo-tech 3 Rennir McDonnrl Middle Bucks AVTS
- Dish Garden**
1 Kelly Moore Myerstown 2 Tina Gutshall Mt Joy R1 3 Kim Chenderain Middle Bucks AVTS
- Terrariums**
1 Tracy Boltz Lebanon Vo-tech 2 Christi Lake Lebanon Vo-tech 3 Denise Lowe Manheim
- Pine Cone Wreaths**
1 Celeste Markovich Samson 2 Lora Baier Elizabethtown 3 Kim Stiths Middle Bucks AVTS
- Arrangement in a Container**
Using Dried and/or Silk Materials
1 Rachel Frey Washington Boro 2 Roxanne Eshleman Marietta 3 Sheri Bretz Mechanic sburg
- Wreaths Using Dried and/or Silk Materials**
1 Karen Shaff Lancaster 2 Felicia Minnick Lancaster 3 Barb Kudia Conestoga R1

- Hanging Wall Arrangements Using Dried Materials**
1 Kim Chenderain Warminster 2 Collette Mood Berwick 3 Tina Long Pottstown R1
- Arrangement in a Pedestal Container**
Using Fresh Flowers
1 Audra Wallace Phoenixville 2 Sherri Jacobs Duncannon R3 3 Gina Kling Hummelstown
- Fruit and/or Vegetable Arrangement**
1 Nora Boyanowski 3300 Union Deposit Rd 2 Karen Henderson Lancaster 3 Christie Lake Lebanon Co Vo-tech
- Silk Corsages**
1 Jill Kirsch Nicktown 2 Collette Mood Berwick 3 Sherry Witmer Lebanon Vo-tech
- SCHOOL EXHIBITS**
Silk Bridal Bouquets
1 Sherry Parks Orangeville R2 2 Mary Roth Bloomsburg 3 Linda Harris Philadelphia
- Fresh Flower Corsages**
1 Deb Brosius Elizabethtown 2 Tracey Hodges Harrisburg 3 Kim Chenderain Warminster
- Fresh Flower Bridal Bouquet**
1 Connie Wealand Lebanon Vo-tech 2 Laura Sibert Phoenixville 3 Tammy Weaver Lebanon Vo-tech
- Table Centerpiece**
Fresh Flowers for the Home
1 Nancy Kennedy Dauphin Vo-tech 2 Audra Wallace Phoenixville 3 Rose Burkepile Halifax
- Hospital Arrangements**
Fresh Flowers
1 Cheryl Bateman Middle Bucks Co AVTS 2 Tina Long Pottstown R1 3 Rhonda Rice Ebsensburg
- Living Room Arrangement**
1 Christie Lake Lebanon Vo-tech 2 Dori Kreiner Mt Joy Vo-tech 3 Ruth Ann Balsbaugh Lebanon Vo-tech
- Large Buffet Table Centerpiece**
1 Gina Kling Hummelstown 2 Jill Neuman Lebanon Vo-tech 3 Teresa Flurie Newport

Govt. programs topic of

Berks - Montgomery meeting

LEESPORT — An educational meeting for dairymen and crop farmers from Berks and Montgomery Counties is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the Berks County Agricultural Center, R1, Leesport.

Jim Smith, district director, and Bob Warhay, with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, will be discussing new crop insurance coverage. They will also provide information on individual yield coverage.

Arnold Pennay, program specialist from the Pa. State ASCS office, will be covering the 1984 Wheat and Feed Grain Programs including PIK (PIK is for the Wheat Program only). The Rural Clean Water Program available in the Conestoga Water Shed, the Mason Dixon Special Project, the Perkiomen Watershed, the acreage conservation reserve cost sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program, and the Milk Diversion Program will also be discussed.

Harry Schaffer, Berks County Extension, will speak on the economics of reducing milk production.

Topics will be presented and ample time will be given for

questions and answers on these programs and related problems.

Farm and Home Foundation Meeting Scheduled

LANCASTER — The annual meeting of the Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County will be held Jan. 26 at the Farm and Home Center, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Speaker for the evening will be John Graham, chaplain of Lancaster County Prison, whose topic is "Who is Neighbor?" A native of Great Britain, Graham became a United States Citizen in 1961. He was ordained by the United Presbyterian Church in 1957 and served at churches in Virginia and Kansas before coming to Lancaster in 1982. Graham is the father of four children.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Dawn and Rich Winey. A short business meeting will be held, including election of new directors.

Tickets for the annual meeting cost \$8.00 and can be obtained from

any director or by calling the Farm and Home Center at 392-4911. Deadline for tickets is Jan. 18.



John Graham

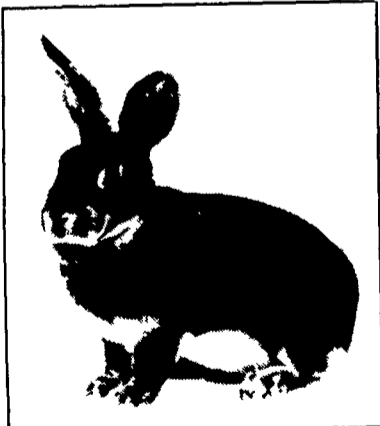
HELP WANTED

Earn \$10, \$15, \$20 thousand a year or more!
Raise REX RABBITS for the multi-million dollar fur industry.

Turn your unused space and spare time into profits.

• Excellent Investment • Exciting Program • Enormous Profits

To learn more without obligation, fill out and mail the coupon below today:



Yes! I am interested in making money by becoming a commercial Fur Rancher!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Married/Single _____

Occupation _____

LF

**R
RR**
**Royal
Rex
Ranches,
Inc.**

RR1, Box 54
Equinunk, Pa.
18417
(717) 224-4580

INSULATION

Distributor For

R. MAX URETHANE

(4x8 or to your spec)

- ★ FIBERGLASS ROLLS
- ★ BLOWN IN



WHEELING CHANELDRAIN ROOFING & SIDING

Colors In Stock:

- White
- Gold
- Brown
- Tan
- Silo Blue
- Red
- Avocado Green
- Plain Galvanized
- Light Green

**FETTERVILLE
SALES**

RD2, Box 267, East Earl, PA 17519

Call us for low prices -
(717) 354-7561

Distributor For
**ALLIMAX ALUMINUM
ROOFING & SIDING**

**COMPLETE POLE &
OTHER BUILDINGS**

TRUSSES

