

# On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



Hidden away, forgotten, in the jumble of assorted attic memorabilia, the big bag stirs little attention for about 50 weeks of the year.

Then, just before Easter, someone will inevitably make their

way to the no-man's-land of the house's top floor to unearth the forgotten dusty bag, open its yawning plastic mouth and commence to poke through the ragged remnants contained therein.

The contents rustle softly as the searcher gropes through the jumble and soon withdraws a handful of crinkly plastic straw in shades of green, yellow or pink, more faded with age than I remembered.

Surely, more than anything, this is a bag of stored memories. Easter memories.

Memories of Easter mornings when excited toddlers wakened early to creep down the stairs of our old farmhouse, intent on beginning the search.

The hide-n-seek would center on colorful woven baskets cradling rabbit-shaped chocolates, bright yellow sugar-coated marshmallow chicks, speckled robins' eggs with malted milk yolks and jelly beans which would be sorted and counted to determine that each had an equal number.

Each year the hiding spots grew harder - both for the seekers to find

and for the hider's aging imagination. Once those were found, and liberally sampled for content at that pre-breakfast hour, another hunt was on for a different quarry.

"Don't forget to hide the eggs," was always the final, sleepy reminder on Easter eve, as blankets were tucked around faces grinning with anticipation.

Nine times out of ten, I would forget to uphold that Easter bunny chore until after the late night news, then have to quickly raisepse around the house, half asleep, wracking my brain for egg hiding spots.

Houseplants on the windowsill were always abundant and handy for egg camouflage. Some were generally tucked around the assorted dust-collectors ornamenting the bookshelves. Others went into cupboard drawers left

ajar, behind kitchen appliances - any place where you could slightly hide an egg.

We cling fiercely to some traditions. Already one basket has graced the buffet for a couple of weeks, bright with plastic eggs and pastel imitation straw. As always, an aged, leftover jelly bean huddles at the basket bottom.

Other childhood treasures share the bag of memories: party favor baskets made of salt boxes and crepe paper, tiny decorative baskets, an assortment of larger baskets which always caused a squabble over who got to use the largest, and an assortment of tiny yarn pompom chicks, slightly smashed from their unorthodox living quarters.

Someday, perhaps, I will find some tidiness in my pack rat ways and discard some of those mementos from the earlier days of this family.

But not yet.

Already they have demanded that I restock the egg coloring and put on the kettle full of eggs, some of which will inevitably crack and ooze all over the boiling water. Our fingers will once again boast splotches of bright color that missed the eggshell canvas.

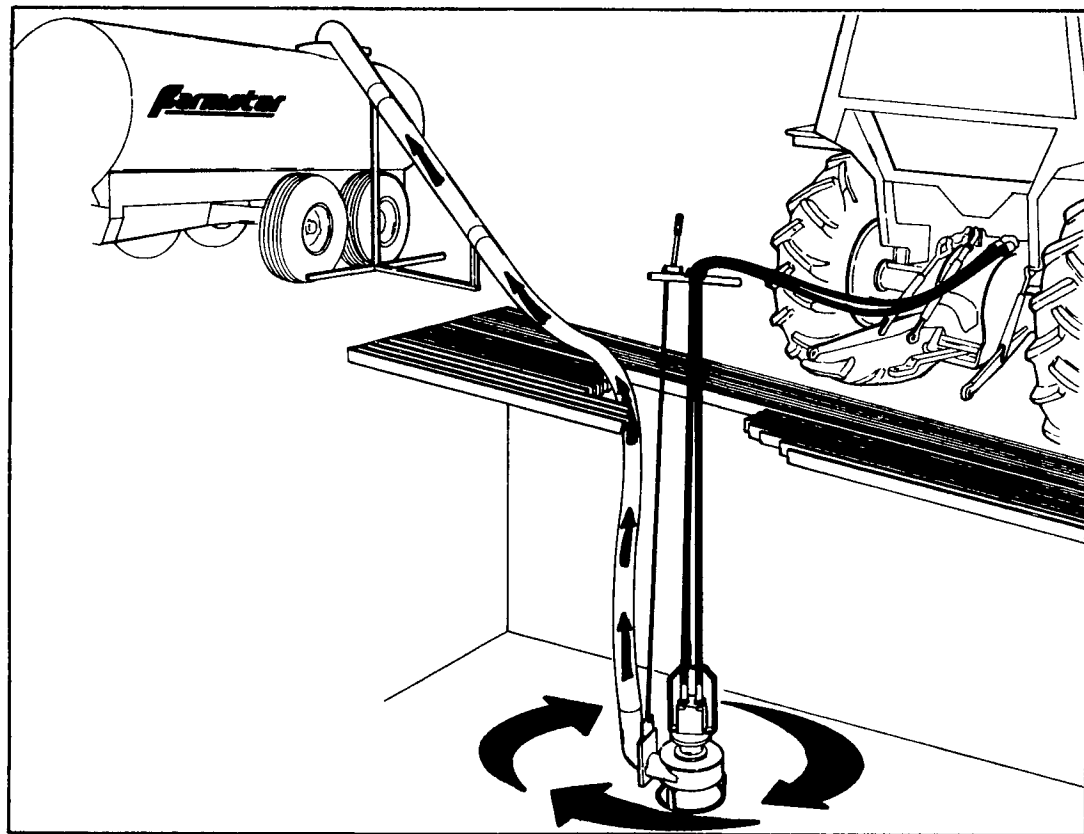
I'm already steeling myself to referee the argument about who gets to use the biggest basket. (Maybe I'll use it his year.) And there's got to be some really good spots to hide those eggs.

Thank heavens for family traditions.

And have a blessed Easter.

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Discharge Opening	Loading Pos — 4 in dia
Inlet Opening	24 5 sq in
# Cutting/Chopping Blades	3
# Stationary Cutting Edges	2
Hydraulic Source	Min 10 gpm
Hydraulic Source	Recommended 13 gpm
Hydraulic Hose Size	3/4" x 25' Standard
Wgt (excl handle & hose)	137 lbs
Wgt—6' Handle & 25' Hose	54 lbs
Handle Length	7'1"
Total Height w/Handle	9'6"
Optional Handle Extension	36"
Req Access Open (ex disch elbow)	18" Diameter Opening
Req Access Open (in disch elbow)	21" Diameter Opening
Agitation Area	Up to 60' Diameter
Centrifugal Pump Priming	Up to 800 gpm*
Tank Wagon Loading	Up to 750 gal /min 16' above pump unit

\*Compatible to Farmstar® Slurry King Pump



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### Berks County Sheep and Lamb Club

The Berks County 4-H Sheep and Lamb Club met at the Penn State Campus of Berks County. Mr. William Logan, a teacher of spinning and weaving, gave a talk and demonstration after the business meeting.

The club also entertained guests from Mali, Africa, who have been in Pennsylvania for a month learning American methods in agriculture through Penn State University.

The next meeting will be at the Berks County Agriculture Center on April 24. There will be a Blue Form discussion and a Sheep Bowl.

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