

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



About this time in July, I feel that there should be a let-up in the workload that I carry. But this year doesn't seem to have worked out that way. The second crop of peas keep bearing due to our ample supply of moisture. Both the red and black raspberries need to be picked every other day and there are yellow wax beans to pick and freeze. Somehow the sparrows forgot a few buds and so I'm picking blueberries too this year.

The potato bugs have found my plants and I've been picking them off and dusting them too. The weeds in my garden just don't know when to stop growing and I can't find time to hoe them out; not to mention the lawn that needs mowing continually. The seed peas, which I save for next year,

are waiting to be shelled also. And when the ground isn't too wet, I want to plant the 100 sweet potato plants that I've bought.

Then on top of this pile of work, we have the pleasure of a visit from our daughter and her family from Seattle. They stayed several days and our other children came for a Sunday picnic. Our grandson, David, said that his grandfather was a farmer and his grandmother was a "cooker." In fact, I did feel like I spent a lot of time in front of my new stove as I cooked and baked almost all day long.

Jeffrey came from Maine and stayed for a week. He helped to tear a silage wagon apart and do some welding. He installed a heavy iron plate in the milk parlor and even strung some beads for me as I

Newton FFA chapter takes first in New Jersey Dairy Judging Contest

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ — The State FFA and 4-H Dairy Judging Contest was held on July 10 at three dairy farms in Monmouth and Mercer counties. FFA members from four chapters competed with 4-H members from seven counties. The contest was organized by Extension Specialist in Dairy Science, Frank Wright.

The Newton FFA Chapter, Newton, placed first in the FFA competition, followed by the Belvidere Chapter, Belvidere; Northern Burlington Chapter, Columbus; and the Woodstown Chapter, Woodstown.

Members were presented

plaques for outstanding scores in each of four categories. Pat Blackford, Belvidere FFA, scored highest in the Brown Swiss category. Karen Shonz, Northern Burlington FFA, scored highest in the Guernsey category and Tom Hartung, Belvidere FFA, placed first in the Holstein category. Yvette Fransisco, Newton FFA placed first in the Jersey category and was also presented the award for being the highest scoring individual overall.

Other students placing in the top five overall include Karen Shonz, second; Tom Hartung, third; Jeanne Currant, fourth; and Rick Duckworth, fifth.

Students judged a total of ten classes of various dairy breeds throughout the day and gave five sets of oral reasons on their placings. The young judges are scored on how they present their reasons to the officials and on terminology used. Scores are also calculated on each of the students' class placings.

Vocational agriculture class instruction is the basis for the FFA members' dairy judging knowledge. The state FFA contest is the vehicle used for members to excel and be recognized for their achievements. Vocational Agriculture/FFA instruction takes place in thirty-six New Jersey High Schools.

guess I'm not patient enough.

Judy entertained the visiting family with a day at Hershey Park. She often flies to the west coast on business and therefore has spent a lot of time in their home. Even Cindy drove in from Ohio for the weekend. Kenneth and his family were here and only Philip, who now lives in Illinois, was missing. But, he had been home twice in May and just came back from a visit to Seattle to see Nancy.

Maybe I'll just take a vacation and leave the work behind.

Kids travel easily, but pets don't

MEDIA — All family members, even infants can enjoy vacation, but leave your pets at home advises Maryetta Dorricott, Delaware County extension home economist of Penn State University. With all the new, convenient baby care products on the market, it's easy to pack up your baby and go. But plan ahead and make lists to be organized, how you're traveling determines how much you can take with you.

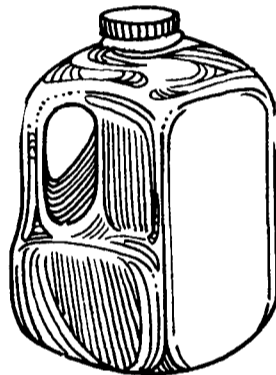
If you're flying, says Dr. James Van Horn, Penn State family living specialist, alert the airlines in advance that you'll have a baby in tow. They'll let you know what special services they provide for young tourists. Traveling by car gives you more leeway, more privacy and doesn't limit your luggage. But remember, the fewer things you have with you, the easier it will be to travel.

Remember to take clothes for cool days as well as warm and have enough changes to last from one laundry to the next. With older children, problems may arise not from packing, but from their

squabbles. Next time a squabble begins in the car, pull over and stop. Wait for the inevitable, "Why are we stopped here?" Tell the children calmly that you cannot drive while they are fighting. When they calm down, continue the trip, but only until the fighting begins again, then pull over again. Eventually your message will be clear. The secret to this method is the strategy of natural consequences. It forces the other person to accept the responsibility for his or her own behavior.

But even if you learn the secrets of traveling with infants and children, leave your pets at home. If you make arrangements with a friend, neighbor, relative or animal kennel to care for your pet while you're vacationing, both you and your pet will be happier.

Remember some places don't allow pets and a hot car or storage campsite is neither safe nor comfortable for your pet. If you are visiting relatives, they may not appreciate your pet as much as you do. They may not be willing to overlook stains, shed hair, noise or allergies caused by your pet.

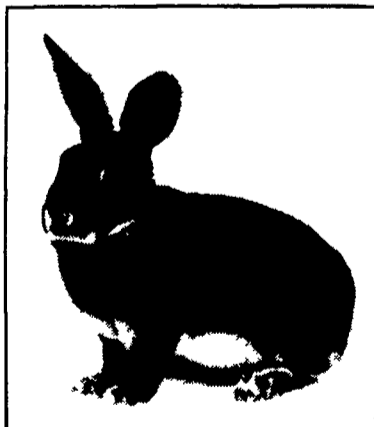


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