

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



"Amie's out," came the offhand comment from our youngest as he returned to the house early one evening last week.

Amie is about 75 years old - by human comparison. Actually this favorite old matriarch cow is 13, a distinguished age for a bovine, though not near the impressive 20 that a few rare individuals reach.

More than just a cow, Amie is a part of the family. Purchased into our herd as a young milker, Amie

came from a New York family whose small son considered the big white animal his own special four-legged partner.

Accustomed to his attentions since calfhood, Amie has always been exceptionally gentle and tame. During the many physical trials and tribulations she's endured, I don't know that she's ever even attempted to kick at anyone.

While the herd was still housed in the old loose housing barn, Amie

never did exceptionally well. Her gentle temperament simply did not fit with the aggressiveness needed by a herd member in that every-cow-for-herself kind of living.

But when the herd moved into the tie stall barn, Amie won her own box stall. Located at the very end of the barn, she can keep an eye on what's happening around the yard, as well as spotting the feed cart as it starts its trips at the distant other end of the feed alleys.

While her initial purchase was intended to add genetically and production valuable daughters to the herd, Amie has been a flop in the female offspring department. She's given us something like seven bull calves - and no heifers. If she's even capable of producing a heifer, she's keeping it a guarded secret.

Amie and our son have always been especially close, perhaps a tie to another youngster of her heiferhood. Before he hit that growth spurt common to pre-teens, it was not unusual to see Amie strolling in from the pasture, bearing one small, grinning boy over her rather jagged, bony backbone.

That ended, I think, the day she jogged under the pipeline and he forgot to duck.

No one rushed away from the Olympics TV coverage to chase Amie back into her pen. We knew full well where she'd be.

A large pile of silage had been run for her boxstall neighbors, but not yet fed. Amie rooted among the stack for the tastiest kernels, then plopped down in the middle of the cushy bed to meditate and chew her cud.

At late night feeding, she was still there, and surely felt that being run back into her own stall was a great injustice.

A continuing problem breeder

Riding-Ho 4-H Club sponsors horse show

DALLAS — The Riding-Ho 4-H Club is sponsoring their annual open show on August 5, 1984 starting at 8 a.m. rain or shine at the Lehman Show Grounds located 4 miles west of Dallas on Route 118.

This year's show has 36 classes which include Western Pleasures & Equitations, Hunter Horses and Ponies, English Pleasure and Equitations, Gymkhanna, 4-H

due to her production and some health problems she's suffered over the years, Amie has been pronounced safe with calf again, a result of persistence, patience and regular checkups. Considering that we nearly lost her a couple of years ago due to a severe toxic buildup, and saved her only through blood transfusions, such confirmed pregnancy announcements bring joy to the barnyard.

Maybe, just maybe, she'll have her heifer this time.

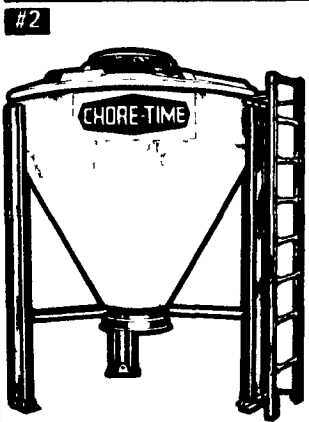
That's the kind of carrot-on-a-stick wish that keeps these livestock breeders plugging along.

classes, and Pee Wee classes. Challenge trophies will be given in Gymkhanna, Western Pleasure and Hunter Under Saddle. A high point trophy will also be given in the youth division. Large percentage paybacks and ribbons or trophy and ribbons are to be awarded in each class.

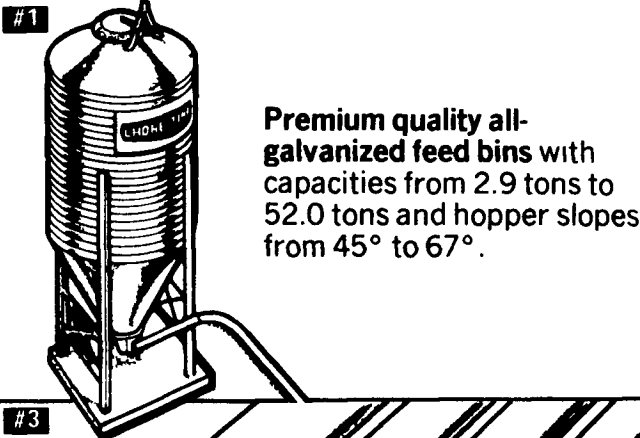
Refreshments will be served on grounds with many baked goods available. For further information about this event, which is free and open to the public call 477-2371, 639-2107 or 675-3571.

CHORE-TIME

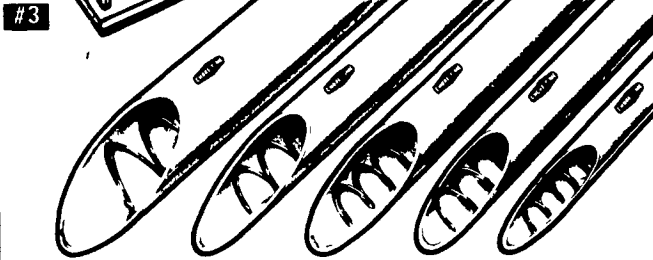
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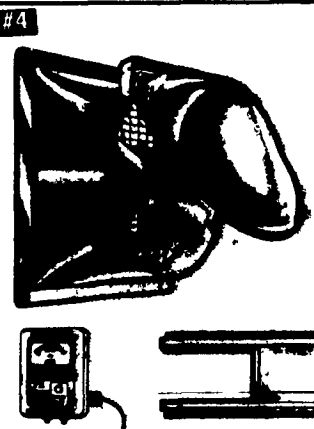
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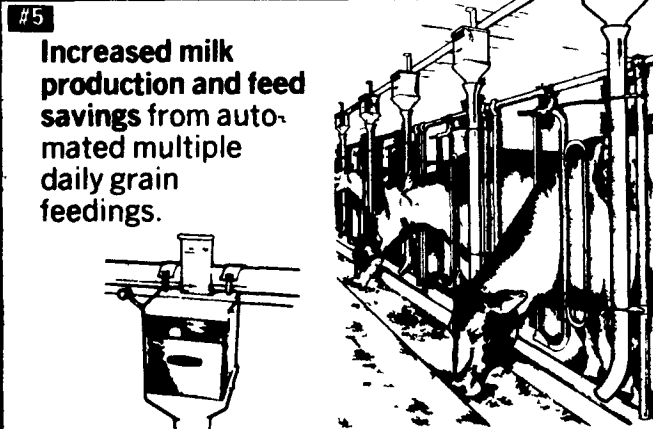
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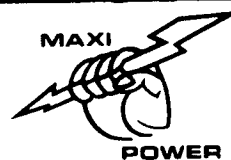
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