

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



Ever heard of "distressed denim?"

If you watch any amount of evening television, you'll know that the worn look in blue jean material, styled into a variety of fashions by those exclusive designer houses, continues to be a hot "in" look.

Imagine that. I've spent the bulk of my adult life in distinctly distressed duds, and all along

known 'em as "barn clothes."

No doubt about it, wriggling into a brand new, bright blue, cardboard-like pair of denim jeans causes one to harbor images of dressing in two-by-fours.

One of life's little horrors is being forced to wear such stiff newness, or jeans that haven't met the washing machine's ministrations at least a half dozen times. Still, there's really nothing

better to "distress" a pair of jeans than hacking around in them for a few days of good, old-fashioned farm work.

Rub the seat of those new britches around a hot, metal tractor seat for a couple of days, further announcing them with hands that have been intimately greasing the baler, changing combine motor oil and fixing the blown-out hydraulic hoses on the windrower.

Then, let 'em mature for a couple of weeks in the sunshine, fresh air, rain, hail and whatever else the weather offers, on the back of a dusty pickup, where the dog will seize every opportunity to stretch out on them to snap at fleas.

Air condition them with a couple of ragged, three-corner tears, preferably nothing less than three-inches. These added features can be acquired on barbed wire fences, jerry-rigged cattle gate repairs, and the never-ending nail ends that peek out from the corners of every old farm building known.

Get 'em damp bringing in a load

of haylage from a field a half-mile away, during a downpour. Then roll them in a ball, and throw them in the back of a damp basement for a couple more days.

For touches of the distressed effect, mildew is hard to beat for authenticity.

Finally, liberally lather with barnyard manure (call me if you're short), adding a sprinkling of milker sanitizer for miscellaneous smatterings of eaten-out dots in random designs.

Polish with the unique finish rendered by aiding in the delivery of a calf, lamb twins or a litter of pigs, and then wiping the hands and arms well over the sides and backs of denims' thigh areas.

At this point, your jeans are definitely distressed, and - added

bonus - have greatly appreciated in value from their original shiny-blue cost. Distressed jeans, if you haven't guessed by now, sell for about twice the cost of normal ones.

As I see it, if we farmers all left each member of our families distress a couple of pairs each month, then resold them at designer-distressed prices, we could certainly help with the cash flow crunch that continues to plague the agriculture economy.

So, stop by my distressed denim boutique (better known as the washline) and select from our fine assortment of jeans, and add distressed accessories like tee-shirts, sweatshirts, blouses, hats, jackets, shoes, socks.....

Purchases of grain reported

WASHINGTON, D.C.
— Private exporters
have reported to the

U.S. Department of
Agriculture the
following grain sales:

— 100,000 metric tons of hard red winter wheat for delivery to the USSR during the 1984-85 marketing year and under the second year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement;

— 125,000 tons of soft red winter wheat for delivery to Turkey during the 1984-85 marketing year;

— 250,000 tons of barley for delivery to Turkey during the 1984-85 marketing year.

Private exporters also reported purchases from foreign sellers of 166,000 tons of barley for delivery to unknown destinations during 1984-85. A purchase from a foreign seller is a transaction in which a U.S. exporter contracts to buy U.S. produced commodities from a foreign firm.

The marketing year for wheat and barley begins June 1. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the second year of the agreement, which begins Oct. 1, 1984, total 7,224,200 tons, of which wheat is 1,125,000 tons and corn is 6,099,200 tons.

Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the first year of the agreement, which began Oct. 1, 1983, total 13,859,700 tons, of which wheat is 7,259,200 tons and corn is 6,600,500 tons. In addition, the USSR bought a total of 416,200 tons of soybeans.

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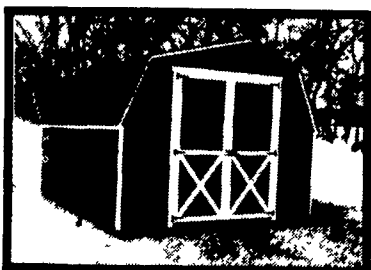
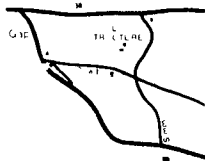
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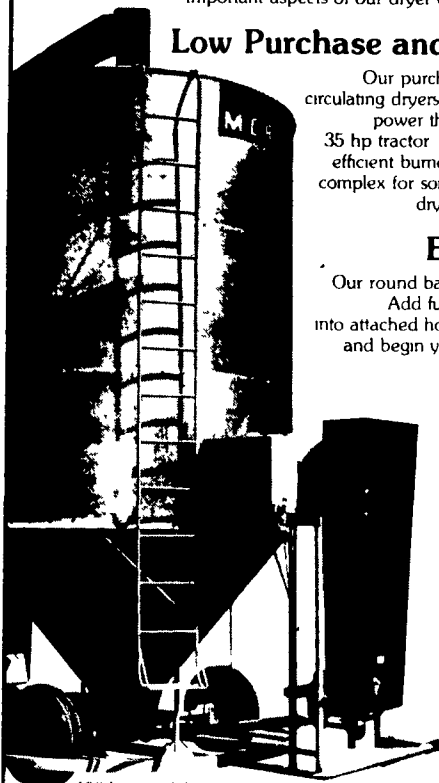
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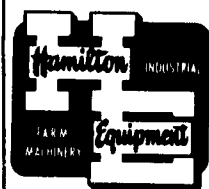
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*optional feature



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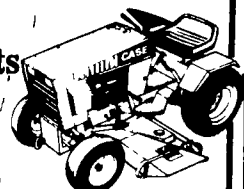
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