

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



Golden. That's a word that has always designated something very special, very rich, very precious.

We laud the rarity of golden wedding anniversaries, golden eagles, glittering, pure golden objects. And fewer things are more pure than this month of October. Of the year's dozen diverse months, October has always been a favorite of mine.

Like couples celebrating their golden 50th year of wedded togetherness, October knows, understands and is totally comfortable with itself. Either it has been a productive year or a lean one, and October can no longer change what the growing months have wrought, save to offer strings

of golden days for storing it away. This particular October promises to be especially rich, a rejoicing in the gathering season of nature's golden goodness.

Corn, kernels of mellow yellowness wrapped in rustling cloaks of a more faded shade, has lived up to all the glossy, glowing promises of shiny advertising pamphlets. Fat ears, many stalks blessed with a matching set, make apologies for the sparseness with which farmers scratched through the past belt-tightening months of bare bins and wind-swept, barren barn floors.

Soybeans are going golden as well, dropping their limp, yellowing leaves to blanket the

field floor, exposing proud, straight stalks showing off trioclusters of brown fuzzy pods fat with beige-toned beans.

In the boggy area below the pond, swamp maples add flaming orange accents to the meadow's subtle shading of fading greens and tired, tan grass.

Oaks dot the fencerow with muted bronze, giant old patriarch watching yet another season transform the pasture. Through their rustling canopies, a host of squirrels race - do squirrels ever walk? - about the pressing seasonal business of stashing nuts and the bounty of acorns against the winter hungries.

Even the fading, grayish thistles flash with gold, as tiny finches cling to the thorny, jagged stems, gobbling their fill of the nourishing seeds buried through the fluffy ripe heads.

Much of the garden has passed to obscurity beneath late fall weeds. What remains are pale-gold lumps of butternut squash, slowly emerging as the tangled mass of vines wither. We gather them by the wheelbarrow loads, piling this last harvest on the porch, to share with friends willing to help whittle down the stack.

Some, though, will find their way into the kitchen to be transformed into just about the very best tasting harvest gold of the season: pumpkin pie.

Carlisle 4-H'er wins national award

UNIVERSITY PARK — Tom Schlusser, of Carlisle, who has compiled an outstanding record in 4-H work, was named state Veterinary Science Award winner in the 1984 4-H National Awards program.

Schlusser will be eligible to attend National 4-H Congress in Chicago on Nov. 25-29.

Support for the Veterinary Science Award is provided by the Cumberland County 4-H program, PA Friends of 4-H, and The Upjohn Co.

Carroll L. Howes, associate 4-H youth program director at Penn State University, who announced the award selection, said Schlusser was judged on the basis of project work, leadership ability, and participation in county and state activities.

Schlusser was picked from among the more than 145,000 youth who annually take part in the Extension Service educational 4-H program.

The son of Chester and Winifred Schlusser, Tom is a freshman at the Pennsylvania State University. He has been a 4-H member for 10 years.

A member of the Cumberland County 4-H club, he served as president and vice president. He also assisted with club activities and events as a teen leader.



Tom Schlusser

Schlusser has completed projects in advanced horse and square dancing, and participated in the 4-H drill team and teen leader retreats. He also participated in the Capital Days and Club Congress.

He is one of 45 Commonwealth 4-H members selected as state contest winners in the various project categories.

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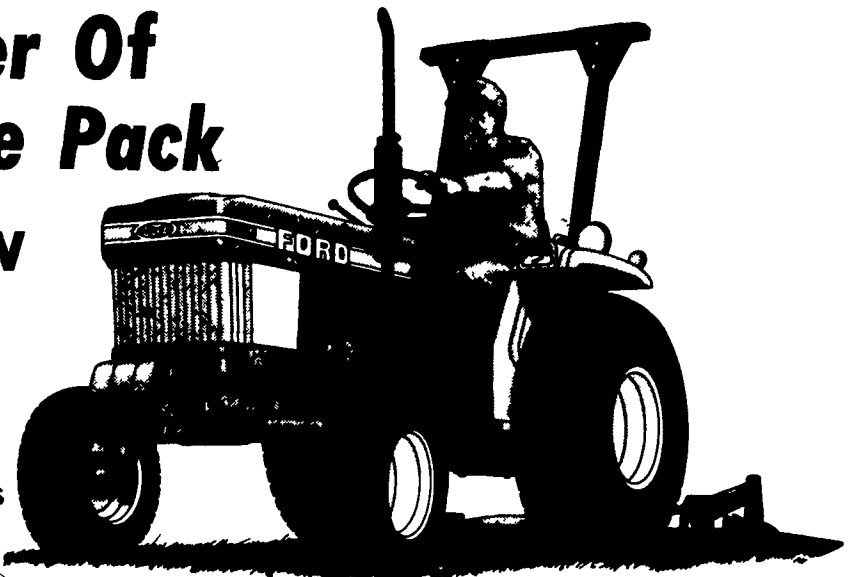
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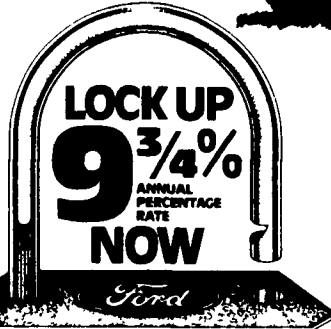
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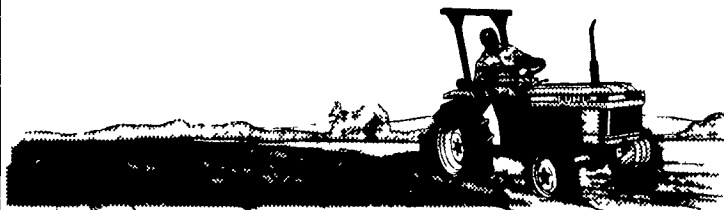
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