

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



It couldn't happen here. Ever had that thought pass through your mind when you heard of some disaster? But it does. And when it does, we're reminded of how we take for

granted the volunteer life and property support systems that thread through the fabric of rural America.

A neighboring young dairy farmer, unloading silage, in a split second recently discovered that

disaster does indeed strike "here." The forage wagon chute, momentarily stuck, suddenly let loose and fell against him, knocking him backwards into the blower and flinging his arm into the deadly, whirling blades of the fan.

Within minutes, local volunteer ambulance personnel were speeding him to the hospital. Ten hours of surgery, a lonely, agonizing vigil for his family, countless prayers from a rallying community and surgeons' skills produced a miracle of an arm that, believed lost, seems on the way to - albeit long and painful - recovery.

With lightning quickness - literally - it struck closer home. Disaster can happen here, too.

A late fall thunderstorm, a crashing strike of thousands of volts, and five hours later, a post-midnight, terrifying call of fire at the barn.

Instant response by county control's alert systems, our nearest fire company on the way, and at least a half-dozen more with engines ready to roll, we blessedly discovered that only a tractor had burned.

Hooked to the blower at the sealed silo, the electrical system of the tractor smoldered apparently for some five hours after the lightning struck and exited through the machine.

Fuel dripping from burned lines, tires ignited, blacktop flaming, the tractor blazed, just feet from the big barn, charring the wooden feed room doors, melting electrical conduits, blackening and slightly warping panels of the glass-glazed

silo metal from the intense heat.

The "what if's" are sobering.

What if there were no volunteer rural disaster personnel? What if there were no individuals willing to learn to drive ambulances and fire trucks? What if no one fled their work, their families, their play, their rest to answer the screaming siren plea for help?

Miracles of saving. These local volunteers make such miracles happen so often we take them for granted, sacrificing their sleep and spare time for their fellow men.

Thanks volunteers, for being there when we needed you. And when we don't, too.

You put feet under the scriptural phrase, "Love one another."

4-H's are selling Pa. ag products

LEBANON — Lebanon County 4-H Clubs are holding a county-wide fund-raiser now through Nov. 16.

The clubs are trying something new this year by having 4-H's take orders for Penn Best Products. This is a collection of some of Pennsylvania's finest agricultural products such as jams, jellies, sparkling apple cider, cookies, cheese spreads and combination boxes of the above items plus meats.

The Lebanon County 4-H program needs your support to make their fund-raiser a success

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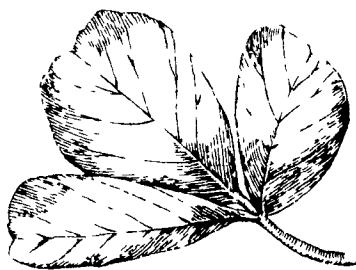
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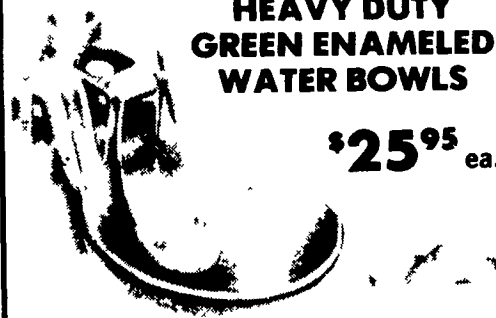
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