

The Dairy Business

By
Newton Bair

THE ECSTASY OF FARM LIFE

Forgive me. I have developed a habit of looking at dairy farming strictly as a business. To be evaluated only in terms of dollars. Or profit and loss. This is short-sighted bunk, as you are well aware.

Rural living, as opposed to city or urban life, is like living in another world. Forget about the old cliches like fresh air and sunshine on the farm, - there are other assets that come with a 'good ole country boy' - or girl.

It's hard to put a price on the togetherness that is taken for granted by family members on a farm. Where else do you find family members taking over and filling in when Dad suddenly decides to be 'unavoidably' detained at the auction, (or the barber shop)? Actually, he is nearly always indispensable to the business, except at those rare episodes when the vet happens to drop in to blood test the herd just before milking time. Why, it's just natural for mom and the kids to carry on the business while the boss is preoccupied, isn't it?

And who can deny the unbounded

joy that mother feels when she discovers the heifers placidly grazing in the garden? To say nothing of the exotic delight of those same fat, lettuce- and cabbage-fed hummies when mother comes out to play 'swing the broomstick' with them. What a joy to see them scurry for the barnyard gate, which just happens to swing shut before they get inside. Oh well, the other gate is wide open and inviting (the one that goes to the sweet corn patch). Screaming is good exercise for the lungs, and does wonders for the sinuses.

Sunday morning can be particularly uplifting, especially when it breaks on a gloriously frosty Christmas card scene with cool, brisk temperatures a bare nothing above nothing. No water leaks this morning. Everything tight and solid. Ha! We'll make ice cream after Church. After the pipes are thawed, the cleaner chain repaired, and the silo unloader is unstuck. If we ever get to church. We might, if dad doesn't dislocate a disc trying to carry a tub of HMC across the skating rink in front of the barn. And if mom doesn't waste too much time thawing the pump, cleaning up the milk house,

feeding the 25 calves in the hutches back of the orchard, cooking breakfast, and getting the kids dressed, we might get to church before the anthem. Glory Halleluia!

Happiness is when, after six weeks of beautiful sunshine and hot wind, a cool lingering shower washes the dust away. And washes, and washes, and washes. Of course, it washes everything off of the alfalfa that was just about dry. Everything. All the dust. Even the leaves. It leaves nice, clean, washed stems. After all, we really needed the rain. Lots and lots of rain. A few little gullies in the corn field won't be noticed, until we bust an axel on the picker next fall.

One of the joys of farm life is the trip down the lane to the mail box. There is always good news in the morning mail. A letter from Aunt

Samantha, with more good news about her arthritis. Ah-ha. There are a couple of long narrow ones with windows. One is from the bank. Isn't that nice. Could it be a check? Always good to get a check. Oh yeah, this is the first of the month, so that must be the mortgage notice. The other three envelopes are probably bills too. No need to worry about them, just throw them on Mom's desk. She's the only one who knows what to do with them anyway. Now, why the heck didn't Lancaster Farming come?

Now to top off this little discourse of the joys and pleasures of life on the farm, I'll have to reveal a little secret. I lied. It's not exactly that way, and you know it.

It is not April 1, and Groundhog Day is over, so it must have been the new moon. I haven't felt quite like myself lately, so please forgive me. I really love farm living, as I'm sure you do too.

In case you've been thinking of giving up the ghost, don't. Cheer up! The new moon will wax brighter every day now, and the groundhog will sleep off his frightening experience of last week. And if we can just survive April Fools' Day, the winter will be over and spring will have sprung once more.

You see, farming is not just a business. It is a unique way of living. Any way you look at it, it's hard to beat.




AUTO/TRUCK DIESEL TREATMENT totally disperses water.

It eliminates water even better than water separators. It also keeps injectors clean, improves engine efficiency, and contains no harmful alcohol. Use it in every tankful all year 'round.

IT COSTS SO LITTLE TO PROTECT SO MUCH. Use Auto/Truck Polarized Flow Improver during the wintertime to prevent waxing and gelling.

DIESEL FUEL INJECTION & TURBO CHARGER SPECIALIST
Master Warehouse Distributor

DIESEL TUNE-UP AVAILABLE Call for Appointment

MILLER DIESEL INC.
6030 Jonestown Rd. Harrisburg, Pa 17112
717-545-5931
Interstate 81 Exit 26

Machine Work
Welding &
Farm Supplies
Hardware



CUSTOM BUILT WOOD & COAL STOVES

- Welders & cutting torches
- Custom made farm gates, etc.
- Custom built high pressure washers
- Stainless steel, aluminum and spot welding.
- UPS Service

HIGH TENSILE WIRE FENCING

PLATE SHEARING AND PRESS BRAKE WORK

Approx. 5,000 ft. of 1 1/4" Good, Used Pipe 18¢/per Lb

Fin Heat Pipes, 1 1/4" \$1.25 per ft.

D.S. MACHINE SHOP
DAVID E. STOLTZFUS
3816 E. Newport Road
Gordonville, PA 17529
1 Mile East of Intercourse on Rt. 772

INCOME TAX SERVICE
Calvin C. Zehring, Jr.
Registered Public Accountant

Specializing in Farm, Business, Corporation or Individual.

Will pickup at your place of business or farm. Fully computerized accounting & tax services.

LOCATIONS:

Morgantown 215-286-6708	Lebanon 717-272-3198
-----------------------------------	--------------------------------

GLICK STRUCTURES
"QUALITY DESIGNED STORAGE BARNs"

Ben Glick — R.D. 2, Gap, PA
717-442-9320

NO SUNDAY SALES




- BUILT TO ORDER
- STOCK & CUSTOM DESIGNS
- BUY DIRECT & SAVE
- FREE DELIVERY Within 20 Miles of Shop
- INSTANT INSTALLATION ON YOUR PREPARED SITE
- COMPLETE WITH FLOOR & PAINT

ALL SIZES FULLY ASSEMBLED

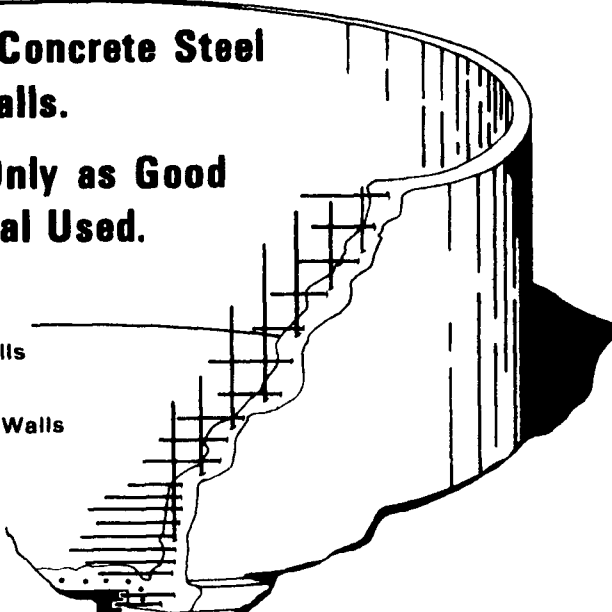
- 4x4 Pressure Treated Skids
- 2x4 Floor Joist 16" On Center
- 5/8 Plywood On Floor
- Sidewall Studs 16" On Center
- Covered With 1/2" Texture 1-11 Plywood Siding
- 240 lb. Shingles On Roof

★ OVERHEAD GARAGE DOORS AVAILABLE ★

THE STRENGTH IS IN THE CONSTRUCTION

- Poured Solid Concrete Steel Reinforced Walls.
- The Wall is Only as Good as the Material Used.

- Manure Pit Walls
- Hog House Walls
- Chicken House Walls
- Concrete Decks
- House Foundation Walls
- Cistern Walls
- Barnyard Walls
- Concrete Pit Tops
- Silage Pit Walls
- Retaining Walls



All sizes available
Round or rectangular

Take the questions out of your new construction
Call: **Balmer Bros.** for quality engineered walls.

Invest in Quality - It will last a lifetime.

Balmer Bros.
CONCRETE WORK, INC.

410 Main St. • Akron, PA 17501 • (717) 859-2074 or 733-9196