

Like anything else that gets used every day, we pay very little attention to a bale of hay or straw. Cows munch through mountains of them in a year's time, neighbors occasionally stop by to buy one for their dog's box or to mulch a strawberry patch, and most of the summer is spent in pursuit of more

By itself, a bale doesn't amount to too much - or go very far in feeding. But piled in stacks, layers high, they're precious cache for the winter, cozy hide-a-ways for nests of kittens, building material for forts, and unending exercise for

all of us who lug them around.

Somewhere in the accumulating stores are a cluster of bales just patiently waiting to snag me some unsuspecting day.

They're "Crackerjack" bales. You all know about "Crackerjacks "That's the caramel-coated popcorn that comes in little boxes, complete with peanuts and the 'surprise in every box." (I think they still put a surprise in every

I cut my consumer teeth on crackerjacks - it was a favorite church picnic purchase. And among my precious possessions were various prizes from the boxes.

I'm still finding surprises in packages - in the "Crackerjack"

Just the other day I split the strings on a hay bale and out tumbled a flattened stack of cardboard. This is one of the less unusual treats.

The farmer has always practiced hayfield anti-littering. When he opens a new pack of baling twine, he simply throws the wrappings in the windrow to bale up with the harvest. That keeps the trash from blowing around and messing up the neighborhood.

Occasionally part of a magazine, or newspaper, or advertising flyer turns up in a hunk of hay. Parts of feed bags and bits of plastic garbage bag are pretty common, too.

Once in a while, a jagged-edged, flattened soft drink can is the surprise in the bale. That never fails to stir a fleeting wish that I could shove the residue into the fan blades or carbueretor of the car driven by the passing motorist who tossed it into the field in the first

Every now and then, a big hunk of tree limb finds it way through the baler's mechanism and is left lying, untouched, in an otherwise

relatively bare feed alley.

"Roughage," the farmer calls it. Such wooden extras prove to be better fuel for the woodstove kindling pile than the cows' inner milk processing plants.

Even flattened, dried-up pieces of some poor luckless groundhog who met his fate before the mower and baler have been known to occasionally appear. Balers are not yet computerized to accept hay and straw while spitting out such harvest unwanteds.

All that I can handle. But the load of straw that recently came in polluted with snakes, and is stacked somewhere, just waiting

for me, will haunt me for the next many months.

I wasn't actually helping unload this batch, so this is second-hand observation. But I understand there are - or at least it seemed more than just a few bales with snake residue. The elder offspring who did unload these recounted in horror how she saw the tail end of a reptile protruding from a bale, gingerly poked it, and liked to have died when the tail began furiously wriggling.

And somewhere in hundreds of bales, they wait. Maybe for me.

If I had my druthers, I'd druther get my surprises from Cracker-

4-H'ers focus on citizenship

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The nation's capital will become the classroom for more than 4,000 teenage 4-H'ers from different states during a week-long citizenship and leadership training held at the National 4-H Center.

Among those 4,000 participants will be 75 Pennsylvania teens from 35 counties.

The Citizenship-Washington Focus program for teens began on June 2 and will continue each week through Aug. 10.

Participants will visit Capitol Hill for a close-up view of the political process; meet with their congressional representatives and senators for a discussion of legislative issues; visit historical and cultural sites within the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, and interact with other 4-H members from across the country to exchange ideas and learn different customs and interests.

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CUMBERLAND COUNTY FFA LIVESTOCK SALE

Thank you to the many supporters at our 6th annual sale held at the Shippensburg Fair.

Sale Total \$18,880.70

3 Steers **Champion Steer**



Grand Champion Steer Shown by Kim Hopple of the Cumberland Valley FFA. Purchased by Richard Shaw, Shaw Bros. Packing (Penns Pride Meats) - Newry, at \$1 05 per pound

MARKET STEERS

Exhibitor

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Reserve Grand Champion Sandy Hopple **David Shultz**

<u>Buyer</u>

Country Butcher Shop-Carlisle

Lvstk

MARKET LAMBS

Exhibitor Reserve Grand Champion Tom Gordon

Champion Rambouillet

Cindy Frey Champion Dorset Scott Lemmon

Champion Southdown Bruce Lemmon, Jr.

Champion Cheviot Jason Kutz Champion Corriedale Betsy Kiner

Champion Columbia Chris Hopple Reserve Champion Suffolk

Sandy Hopple Reserve Champion Hampshire **Tom Gordon**

Reserve Champion Rambouillet Cindy Frey

Reserve Champion Dorset Huntsdale Stock Farm **Betsy Kiner**

Wayne F Craig & Sons

<u>Buyer</u> **Greencastle Lystk Market**

Country Mkt Nursery Florist

Hulse Associates Insurance

Carlisle Lystk Market

Newville Print Shop

North Mountain Butcher

Dr Chitra Nagana

Carlisle Lystk Market

Wayne F Craig & Sons Lystk

Georges Flowers & Shepherd's Crook

20 Lambs Champion Lamb



Grand Champion Lamb shown by Sandy Hopple of the Cumberland Valley FFA Purchased by Gary Blakey, Shaw Bros Packing (Penns Pride Meats) - Newry, at \$2 55 per pound

Exhibitor

Buyer

Mark & Carolyn Gutshall Reserve Champion

Southdown Bruce Lemmon. Jr

Reserve Champion Cheviot Larry Wert

Jason Kutz Scott Lemmon

Kım Hopple Michelle Walker Chris Hopple Michelle Walker Sunday's Mill Co Farm Credit Service Carlisle Lystk Market **Country Mkt Nursery Florist** Rita Gould & Shepherd's

Kım Hopple

First Bank & Trust-Mech

MARKET HOGS Reserve Grand Champion Shaw Bros. Packing-Newry **Ed Goodhart**

Scott Lemmon

Champion Lightweight Mark Bricker Champion Light-

Heavyweight **Ed Goodhart** Reserve Champion

Lightweight Steve Helm Reserve Champion Mediumweight **Brandon Weary**

Reserve Champion Light-Heavyweight Jeff Warner

Reserve Champion Heavyweight Bruce Lemmon, Jr Mark Lehman

Mark Lehman

Jeff Nolt

Kreider Meats

Orrstown Bank

C V Co-Op-Shippensburg

Joanne's Kountry Kitchen

Hatfield Packing Co

Hatfield Packing Co

Country Butcher Shop Country Butcher Shop Souder Feed & Grain

45 Hogs Champion Hog



Grand Champion Hog shown by Scott Souders of the Big Spring FFA Purchased by Wayne F Craig & Sons Livestock represented by Wayne F Craig III and Wayne F Craig. The purchase price was \$5 00 per pound.

Exhibitor Kım Hopple

Duane Kough Duane Kough Ben Myers Chris Hopple Chris Hopple

Robert Allen, Jr **Betsy Kiner Brandon Weary** Ben Kutz Bruce Lemmon, Jr Mike Allen Jeff Warner

Andrena Sites Steve Helm John Sigler Tom Gordon Robert Allen, Jr **Bill Sigler** Kim Hopple

Sandy Hopple

Sandy Hopple **David Varner** Ben Kutz **Betsy Kiner** Andrena Sites Mike Allen Jason Kutz Mark Bricker Ben Myers Jason Kutz

Dave Varner

MOMOMOMO

Buyer

Greencastle Lystk Market Farmers National Bank-Newville

Country Butcher Shop Doug C. Wallick Insurance Country Butcher Shop C.V Co-op -Mechanicsburg Hatfield Packing Co. John C Diehl & Sons Lvstk Gutshall's Inc. -Carlisle Hatfield Packing Co. Kessler's Meats -Lemoyne **CCNB-New Oxford** Huntsdale Stock Farm

C V. Co-op -Newville

White Oak Mills Monn Real Estate Shippensburg Doug C Wallick Insurance **Emery Buying Station** Fred Potteiger & Sons W.R. Sellers Buying Station G Leonard Fogelsonger Ins C.V. Co-op -Mechanicsburg North Mountain Butcher

Shop Fickes Silo - Newville Agway - Newville Joanne's Kountry Kupboard Kessler's Meats -Leymone Hatfield Packing Co Vigortone Ag Products Orrstown Bank

Gwaltney of Smithfield, Ltd

Shaw Bros Packing-Newry