

On being a farm wife - And other hazards Joyce Bupp



"Geese! Geese!" I run, shrieking, into the dairy barn.

Cynical due to my advancing age, - as I am constantly reminded by a pair of teenagers - I don't run, shrieking, about too many things any longer.

But geese? After a February packed in wall-to-wall clouds and dreariness, who wouldn't thrill to the faint, haunting honking, and a ragged, lopsided, "V" of floating shapes against a gray, early morning sky.

Spring? It starts this week, says the calendar. Announcement by geese is far more romantic than announcement via a terse phrase on a page of methodical square numbered blocks.

But this announcement by air is merely a symbol of seasonal restlessness. Time to be out and about, to let morning sunlight wash over the kitchen through the dusty stormdoor glass and rejoice in a gentle warm breeze.

The cats, too, are enjoying this peek at spring fever, rolling in the thick sawdust that mulches the floral border. Nature handled this mulch job, spreading the once-neat pile of wood residue over the farmstead by way of a wicked West wind that swept across the place like a prairie fire.

While the tulips are struggling up through the thick insulation, and the felines figure it was put there for their sole lounging pleasure under the remains of last year's chrysanthemum plants, I see the sawdust layer as a barrier to the April showers that are supposed to bring later return in blossoms. Off it must come.

The farmer stops by the house and insists he heard a robin singing somewhere. No fair - you have to

see the robin for it to count in the spring-sights countdown.

Mom beat him already. She spied a large flock - like several dozen - of the feathered harbingers fresh in from the tropics on a morning that could best be described as chilly, gray and wintry.

Sort of makes you feel that you ought to rewrite that old cliché: "The early bird gets.....frostbite."

And muddy feet. For if spring brings the soft, fuzzy-gray pussywillows back on the bush so high I can't reach the best cutting stems, and a yellow cast to the willows storing up golden sunshine, and green spots dotting the bare, brown roadbank littered with old ugly leaves, likewise it brings mud.

Mud tracked through the milk house, just hosed down to sparkling concrete that would make the milk inspector proud. Mud tracked into the car carpet, where it breeds and reproduces like fungus to coat the rubber floor mats and burrow into carpet coils,

never to be removed. Mud tracked across the basement indoor-outdoor floor covering, around the freezer and washing machine, up the stairs, through kitchen, living room, office, and wherever busy feet travel.

I long ago came to grips with mud. Mud does not freeze up cattle watering fountains, cause car and tractor batteries to roll over and play dead, nor send you skidding down a hill as you round a cold corner and hit a patch hiding in a shady spot on the pavement. Mud is a seasonal inconvenience, traded off for the likes of robins bursting in song and geese honking toward Canada.

NJ FFA flower show, design contest set for March 20

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ - The New Jersey FFA is gearing up for the State Flower Show and Floral Design Contest on March 20 at the Quakerbridge Mall in Lawrenceville.

This contest is to encourage high school FFA members to develop skills in floriculture. The students' work will be on display at the mall on Thursday, March 20 through Saturday, March 22.

The Floral Design Contest is open to a team of four from each FFA chapter in New Jersey. This contest is sponsored by the New Jersey Florist's Association. Students will design a freestyle arrangement and an assigned

arrangement, such as a centerpiece or symmetrical triangle. Students also compete in the State FFA Flower Show while at the mall.

Twenty-eight classes of floral arrangements are open to the FFA students. The show includes classes of silk and fresh designs of holiday, spring, wedding, and

novelty arrangements. Wreaths, corsages, hanging baskets, planters and dish garden classes are included for student competition.

All arrangements and designs are prepared prior to the show. Designs are entered on Thursday for judging and remain on display at the mall until Saturday evening.

Conrad Weiser FFA

Berks County FFA members competed in the annual County Public Speaking Contest at the Berks County Intermediate Unit on Feb. 24. FFA members could enter conservation, general prepared, and the FFA creed contests.

Five members of the Conrad Weiser FFA participated in these contests. Eight FFA members competed in the Conservation Division. Kay Fessler, a sophomore, placed second with her speech, entitled "There is No Longer Pure Rain."

Fourteen FFA members competed in the General Prepared Contest. Becky Sonnen, also a sophomore, placed first with her speech entitled "Mastitis-Money Down the Drain."

And, in the FFA Creed Contest Kirk Sattazahn, a freshman, placed first; Brenda McFarland, a freshman, placed third; and Karen Fessler, also a freshman, placed fifth.

The top three places in each division go on to Area Contest Competition, on April 16th.

Centre County Dairy Club

The Centre County 4-H Dairy Club elected officers during its Feb. 28 meeting.

The new officers are: James Houser, president; Eric Stine, vice president; Todd Homan, secretary; Lori Houser, treasurer; Chad Homan, recreation leader;

Ron Gilligan, historian; Joy Gates, news reporter; Joyce Harpster, parliamentarian; and Martha Hartle, county council.

Leaders are Nancy Kocher, Joseph Hartle, Jay Houser, Boyd Homan, and Jeff Harding. Junior leaders are Betsy Dupuis and Judy Vonada.

SANDBLASTING AND SPRAY PAINTING

Aerial
Ladder
Equipment
Farm Buildings
Feed Mills
Commercial-
Industrial
Repainting
Interior/Exterior



HENRY K. FISHER INC.

667 Hartman Station Rd.
Lancaster, PA
393-6530

KREIDER MFG. CO.

R.D. 3

Manheim, Pa.



BALE THROWER WAGONS

Length - 18 ft. Width - 8 ft.
Height - 8 ft.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- * Rear gate opens 270° both ways
- * 2 position front support bar
- * 1 hook releases 3 chains simultaneously
- * Removable sides for long distance deliveries
- * Buy Direct & Save

* CALL 717-665-6259
for more information and quantity prices

BUY, SELL, TRADE OR RENT THROUGH THE
CLASSIFIED ADS
PHONE: 717-626-1164 or 717-394-3047

When you look at the facts...

Agimaster™

THE SILAGE INOCULANT THAT BEATS THE OTHERS COLD!

- Speeds fermentation.
- Extends bunk life during feedout.
- Increases feed intake through improved palatability.
- Ninety percent or more dry matter retention in treated silage.
- Increased milk production, higher milk persistency, and enhanced milk protein content.



CALL YOUR MADISON SILO
DEALER OR:

MADISON SILO CO. OF PENNSYLVANIA

1070 Steinmetz Rd. Ephrata, Pa. 17522 Phone 717-733-1206

We specialize in turbos, parts and service.

As your authorized Roto-Master distributor, we offer new and rebuilt turbochargers for most popular diesel applications, including IH, Case, John Deere, Massey, AC, M & W and others

- * New - Rebuilt - Exchange
- * Custom Rebuilding Available
- * Turbine Wheels & Shafts Dynamically Balanced And Straightened As Required
- * New Bearing, Seals & Gaskets w/Each Turbo
- * All Makes Serviced
- * Service Since 1952
- * Free Hat With Each New, Rebuilt, Or Exchange Turbo Thru 5/31/86 (Limited Supply)

PENN DIESEL SERVICE CO.

Interstate 81, Exit 27
Harrisburg, PA 17112
PA 800-223-8836

7 LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT

Galvanized smooth wall hopper feed tanks, 4 thru 12 ton models in stock for immediate delivery. Loucks Grain Equipment, 717-755-2868.

Locust fence post sawed, tapered, 8' rounds & 1/2 rounds. Delivery available. Chester Co. 215-932-8923.

New Smidley covered feeder for sheeps or hogs. Make offer. 717-862-3731

WANTED: Veal milk mixer, in good working condition. Montgomery County. Call after 5:30 p.m. 215-257-7050

Patz 12' conveyor w/1 h.p. motor, \$600.

Starline 10' conveyor, \$100
Union County
717-524-9633

FOR SALE

Patz 70' Bunk feeder with adjustable legs and motor. Very good condition.

Call
717-284-4722