



## Have You Heard?

By Doris Thomas  
Lancaster Extension  
Home Economist

### Washing Blankets

Spring is frequently the time when blankets get a yearly cleaning. How a blanket is cleaned depends on its fiber content and construction. Most blankets are acrylics and/or polyester with small amounts of nylon, wool and cotton. Most of the satin bindings are washable nylon, rayon or acetate. Here are some tips to help you successfully clean your blankets.

Electric blankets should be home laundered, because dry cleaning can ruin the insulation on the wires. Reduce agitation time in wash and rinse cycles to cut down on abrasion of the wires. Line drying is recommended for electric blankets.

Wool blankets require special handling to avoid shrinkage and felting. Always measure a wool

blanket before washing — later it will be stretched and blocked to its original shape. Use only warm or cold water and brief agitation between several 10 minutes soak periods. Use a deep water rinse to remove all detergent residue and reduce agitation time in the rinse and spin cycles.

Wool blankets should be damp-dried quickly on a high temperature setting to avoid abrasion caused by long tumbling. Remove the slightly damp wool blanket and stretch it to its original shape.

Synthetic blankets are generally washed with normal wash and agitation times and warm water. Fabric softener helps reduce static and makes the blanket soft and fluffy. Dry completely but avoid overdrying which causes wrinkles.

### Dress for Less

Need a million to look like a

million? Not at all. To look your best for less, plan ahead, use your imagination, and buy only what you need. Shopping for clothes on a tight budget is an exercise in control and concentration, so be ready before you begin.

Once you know what you have (first go through last year's supply before you even think of buying something new!) decide what you really need. Casual trendy clothes may be what you want, but are they really what you need? Think about where you spend your time. If you work in an office, tailored clothes may be in order. Fancy party clothes may be what your children want, but what they really need right now are attractive, sturdy clothes for school.

Once you're ready to shop, here are some tips to keep in mind to stretch your clothing dollar and help you dress for less.

• Select clothes that can be adapted for several occasions with a variety of accessories or by mixing and matching with clothes you already have.

• Consider clothes that span the seasons. For example, pin-wale corduroy can look good year round, while wide-wale corduroy looks heavy and is best worn in cold weather. A sweater vest can be worn now through spring, while pullover sweaters have a shorter season.

• Choose clothes with classic lines that retain their style for years. You can always pick up inexpensive, trendy items for variety. Too often, novelty or high fashion clothes seem dated the next year.

• Plan your clothes around one or two basic color groups so clothes will go well together. Solid colors, smooth or medium textures, and small over-all designs usually have the best mix-and-match potential.

• Make coordinated separates the mainstay of your wardrobe. It's easy to do when colors and textures of individual items are related. Choose accessories that go with several outfits instead of only one.

• Always consider the cost of maintaining the clothes you buy. If they have to be drycleaned or washed by hand, they may not be worth the extra expense or effort.

## Bair Elected

### FFA Reporter

Dennis Bair has been elected Lancaster County FFA reporter.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bair of 510 E. Brubaker Valley Road, Dennis is currently reporter for the Warwick FFA Chapter and has had dairy heifers as his FFA project for the past two years. He holds the Chapter Farmer Degree and the Red Rose Degree.

Dennis was also awarded the dairy proficiency award at Warwick's parent/member banquet. Dennis works at the farm of Wilmer Thomas, where he manages the hog unit and assists in planting and marketing vegetables.

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