

**On being  
a farm wife  
- And other  
hazards**

**Joyce Bupp**



Good grief! Can it really be? Just when I was finally getting in the groove of writing 1986, instead of 1985, on checks and correspondence, now it's time to reprogram the old brain again. With past history in mind, by about September the use of 1987 will begin to feel comfortable.

Is it indicative of aging — or too many commitments and too few days — that time flies by so much faster with each passing year? Remember how long it once

seemed to take for Christmas or vacations to arrive? Now, it almost seems as if our lives have been shoved into "fast forward," like kids do with VCR's to get to the good parts of the movie.

But enough of that. It's the little things that count, we often hear. And, that can be good little things that cheer us up, or small irritations which snag a day or a mood. "Warm fuzzies" the good little things that boost a day are sometimes called. Or

"cold pricklies," nasty irritations that otherwise snarl a good feeling. For 1987, it would be nice to do away with some too familiar "cold pricklies." (Or "pwickwies" as our youngest called them years ago when they covered this subject in kindergarten.)

Like nasty lightning storms. Broken fences and heifers in lush corn. Flat tires. Splinters. Ballpoint pens which leak ink all over your fingers — or clothes. Thread which snags and balls up under the sewing machine plate. Envelopes which don't stick. Drawers that do.

Boots with an unseen rip in them that turns up when I turn the hose on to wash them off. Socks with holes in the toes.

And one of the worst "cold pricklies" of just this past year: a recorded message which greeted me one day when I answered the phone, and asked ME to hold. What I did to the phone receiver might have been considered a pricklie by the phone company.

Cabbage worms and flies. Running wallets through the laundry. Dust. Weeds with thorns. Having my precious house and

garden tools snagged for barn and farm use.

But I'd rather dwell on the "warm fuzzies."

An unexpected call from a friend. Chocolate candy. The warmth of the woodstove on an icy morning.

Flowers — of any kind. And the brilliance of the sunshine in the greenhouse against a snowy landscape. Laughing little children.

The smells of fresh mown hay, pine trees, clean, freshly-laundered sheets, and brownies baking in the oven. Canada geese resting over on the pond. Having Rhett, the tiger cat, curl up on my lap. Wind chimes.

Black and white cows con-

tentedly grazing a green pasture under brilliant blue skies.

Ice cream and strawberries. Our resident red-tailed hawk cruising lazy circles above the meadow.

Comfy, well-worn sneakers, jeans, and sweatshirts.

Taking the milker off the last cow in the barn. A full hay mow. Walking under a star-spangled, moonlit sky on a crisp, frosty night.

Those are among my choices. Your list would be different.

But whatever they are, may your New Year be sparsely populated with "cold pricklies" and may "warm fuzzies" run through your days unabated.

A happy, peaceful and prosperous 1987.

**York Student Wins Dairy Scholarship**

YORK — A 17-year-old Pennsylvania student, who has raised and shown both Holstein and Jersey dairy cows, has been named one of six national winners in the 4-H dairy program.

Sue Eisenhart, R1, Thomasville, received a \$1,000 scholarship from American Cyanamid Co. and Land O Lakes, Inc., the program sponsors.

Selected by the Cooperative Extension Service, the winners were presented with their awards during the 65th National 4-H Congress in Chicago, earlier this month. Awards are arranged by National 4-H Council.

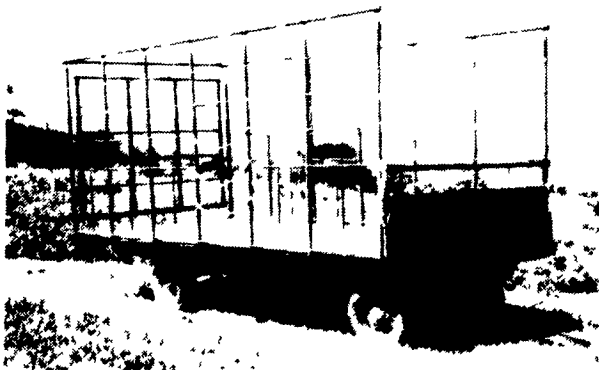
Eisenhart, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney and Sara Eisenhart, is a junior at Spring

Grove Senior High School who plans a career in accounting. She is a nine-year 4-H'er.

The York County girl's first calf was a Holstein. "We were buddies and learned to show together," the 4-H'er said. "However, the calf grew too fast and by the second year I couldn't see the judge over her back. So enter the Jersey breed. My mother felt it would be better for me to show a smaller animal.

Her new dairy animal, Daisy, turned out to be a winner. "She has topped our Dairy Herd Improvement Association test on our farm several times. This is a large Holstein herd with 100 animals housed in a free-stall barn and a bunk feeder."

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