

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



Holidays have always been special days, at least for most families. They're interludes of celebration in a daily routine of everyday life.

Through holiday celebrations, families establish traditions, roots, continuity. Sociologists increasingly seem to attribute a lack of such family roots and stability to a whole range of social and insecurity problems in children. We've always cherished certain

holiday traditions, including those that come with the Easter season. But, as the offspring left those early childhood years and began maturing toward adulthood, I've experienced a nostalgia for some of the traditions they so loved as youngsters, but take little note of as they grow older.

Or so I thought. "We ARE going to have an Easter dinner, aren't we?" was the mixed question and command

heard in the kitchen some days ago.

Now, the number of heads that can be counted around the table at any given mealtime is no longer a certainty. It might range from two to five, occasionally six, depending on whose friends happen to be around at chow time.

Yes, there would be an Easter dinner, extended family invitations would go out, and yes, friends were welcome, too. What's one more mouth at a family holiday dinner?

As for the menu, perhaps we would deviate this year. Having just refilled the freezer with homegrown beef, a nice beef roast (or, "roast beast" as we sometimes refer to it) with all the trimmings might do just fine for Easter Sunday, I thought aloud.)

"What? No ham? You're not making ham for Easter!!?"

Good grief. Selling the family jewels (don't worry, there aren't any) couldn't have created any more fuss.

When I didn't give in immediately, they hauled out the big guns.

"If you don't make ham, I'll call

Grandma and tell her. She'll make ham and bring it for us."

And Grandma would, you know.

With promises of ham on demand conceded, we could turn to yet another tradition.

"When are we going to color Easter eggs?"

As they were growing up, we often colored eggs once, twice, perhaps even three times before the day of the Big Bunny. But recently, well, coloring eggs had faded behind in importance.

Nevertheless, this point of tradition, too, demanded commitment.

So, thus it came to be that, to the blaring blast of punk rock on an oversize silver "box," the teenage Easter egg creativity troop rampaged through a dozen and a half hardboiled blank canvasses, assorted bottles of dye, one pan of fresh brownies, and the milk to which they have unlimited consumption rights in our kitchen.

To do so, they parked battered skateboards, abandoned attempts at thrashing their bodies for the sake of this "sport," and briefly set free to color Easter eggs that little kid which hopefully still lives

somewhere in each one of us.

The traditional basket of colored eggs now sits in the traditional spot on the buffet, tribute to this blessed Easter Day when we will definitely (I promise!) eat the traditional ham and sweet potatoes.

Colored eggs. Eggs which, when you pay close attention, bear totally untraditional skateboarding and punk rock symbols, and bear ornately colored messages like "Skate till you poop" (skateboard fatigue) and silly notations in that garbled lingo we always knew as pig Latin.

Traditional ham. Punk, New Wave, Easter eggs. Sometimes even traditions have to be flexible.

Happy Easter.

**Cumberland County
Executive Board**

The Cumberland County Farm Women Executive Board met April 6 at the Cumberland County Extension Office.

Members presented ideas for promoting interest in the organization. One member made the group aware of the pressure on farmers concerning housing or confining livestock in certain areas.

The state Spring Rally will be held May 20 at Elizabethtown College; 17 counties will send representatives.

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