

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



Remember good ole' Murphy? He's the guy who authored those unofficial - but ultimately reliable - Laws of goof-ups, the golden one being "Anything that can go wrong, will."

With each additional passing year here on the farm, my respect for the accuracy of Murphy's wisdom doubles. So, you can imagine my delight at finding a rundown of some of Murph's rules, as applied

to farming, on one of the many new calendars to land on my kitchen table a few weeks back. Unfortunately, I ripped out the rules, and neglected to keep track of which particular calendar they originated in.

Nevertheless, with due credit to whichever ag-business deserves it for printing these, some of these Murphy specials are worth passing along.

"Precise planning, minute attention to detail, and exact timing never succeed like dumb luck." From a farm point of view, and in light of the weather of the past few growing seasons, I figure a well-timed inch of rain is equal to a month's worth of dumb luck.

"By faithfully working eight hours a day, you may eventually be successful enough to work 12 hours a day." Or during planting season, make that 16 hours a day.

"Nothing is as easy as it looks." Especially if it's been computerized.

"Once you open a can of worms, the only way to recan them is to use a larger can." The farmer vouches for this one each time he sets out to repair a small leak on our copper water pipes in the basement. Eventually our copper "can of worms" will be totally replaced with plastic, which offers greater durability against our high-acid water.

"Leftover nuts never match leftover bolts." The same principles which in kitchen use apply to plastic containers and lids.

"Implement dealers always lack just one part - yours." It's probably sitting on a shipping dock somewhere in Cleveland, and is the one you'll send your unsuspecting wife to pick up for you.

"Any tool, when dropped, will roll into the least accessible corner of the machine shed." The likelihood it will connect with big toe on the way down doubles with every ounce of tempered steel weight contained in the tool.

"Any discrepancy in your bank statement will not be in your favor." This applies no doubt to not only farmers, but the entire adult population of the world. Only once, years ago, did I catch a bank in error.

"Nothing ever gets built on schedule or within budget." Running even farther ahead of farmers in perfectly this law of Murph's is the Department of Defense and NASA.

"There's always one more bug." It will generally buzz your ear just as you're falling asleep some muggy August night.

We've specialized on a few of Murph's laws around here.

For instance, the night the 100-watt bulb, which keeps the calf barn sink pipes from freezing, goes kaput, is the night the temperature will drop to minus two

degrees by morning.

And, the number of people you meet when running an emergency errand to town will increase two-fold for every patch on the ratty old barn jeans you didn't change for the trip.

The tines section of a hay fork will only disconnect from the handle when it's being used to toss a huge bundle of loose hay into a sticky-manure bedding pack in a dark corner of the barn.

Your friends from town will drop by just as you emerge from the barn after retrieving the above mentioned tines-section of the fork.

Farmers only ask to borrow their wives newly-cleaned cars when they've collected a half-inch of mud (or whatever) on the soles of their boots and a thick layer of corn dust on their insulated coveralls.

When your deep-pedigreed, high-producing cow finally has a heifer calf, it will be a twin to a bull, and therefore lack a complete reproductive system.

While they were never Constitutionalized, legislated, or debated at a public environmental impact hearing, we nevertheless seem stuck with Murph's philosophies.

At least he makes a great scapegoat.

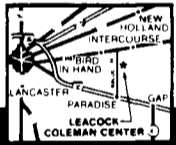
REDUCE YOUR HEATING BILL

with one of America's best-built stoves
HARMAN MARK II & MARK III



The Mark II and Mark III are unique to the stove industry. No other stove looks, operates, or performs like them. They are designed from the ground up to burn wood or coal to perfection.

Heating capacity is 1900 square feet for Mark II and 2400 square feet for Mark III. Both are available in a variety of colors with either solid brass or chrome trim.



LEACOCK-Coleman CENTER

89 Old Leacock Rd., RD 1, Ronks, PA

Open Mon., Wed., Thur. 7 to 5, Tue., Fri. 7 to 8:30, Sat. 7 to 3:30



SOMETHING TO
CROW ABOUT....

LOW
CLASSIFIED
RATES
WITH
EXCELLENT
RESULTS!

Group Tour To
China/Hong Kong
July 22 thru
Aug. 7, 1988
Limited to 25 people.
For details contact
the tour leader
717-761-6433

Maryland Horseman's Party Slated For Feb. 20

COLLEGE PARK, MD. — The Second Annual Maryland Horseman's Party will be held at the Laurel Sports Palace on Feb. 20 at 7:00 pm. The proceeds will benefit the Sallie Robertson Endowment Fund that supports the 4-H Horse Project and program. Last year's Horse Hoedown was such a success that the idea has been expanded. This fun filled evening will include dinner, dancing and games. There will also be both a

live and a silent auction featuring all kinds of items, many of which will be of special interest to horse lovers.

Tickets to this extravaganza are \$20.00 and are available through the Maryland 4-H Club Foundation, Symons Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD (454-3736), the Maryland Horse Breeders Association (252-2100) and Horse Committee members.

GEHL®

FLEXIBLE FINANCING

Stretch your equipment purchase dollars with Gehl Finance. Talk to your participating Gehl dealer about one of our current programs:

Grinder-Mixers, Manure Spreaders and Skid Loaders . . .

• WAIVER OF FINANCE to JULY 1, 1988*

OR . . .

• LOW APR*
12 month term 0%
24 month term 5.9%
36 month term 6.9%
48 month term 9.9%

Hay & Forage Equipment . . .

• LOW APR* (same as above)

OR . . .

• WAIVER OF FINANCE to JULY 1, 1988, INCLUDES LOW APR*:
24 month term 7.9%
36 month term 8.9%

*Certain restrictions may apply. See your participating Gehl dealer for complete details. Gehl Finance reserves the right to interpret, modify or cancel these programs at any time without prior notice. Gehl Finance is not available in all states or provinces.

GEHL FINANCE

A Division of Gehl* Company

Available at your local participating Gehl dealer



Breaking old habits can make sense.

Year after year, some insurance policies are renewed without being updated. Call us today, and start the good habit of reviewing your insurance program — we'll do it free.



Old Guard MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

2929 Litz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17604 717-569-5361

KECKLER & HEITEFUSS, INC.
1120 E. Chocolate Avenue
Box S, Hershey, PA 17033
(717) 533-2166

SAMUEL G. KURTZ, INC.
832 Chestnut Street
Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 272-6693

KILMER INSURANCE AGENCY
Box 337
Wyalusing, PA 18853
(717) 746-1007

THOMAS M. LANDIS
R.D. 2
Sugarloaf, PA 18249
(717) 384-4461