

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



Did you ever really think about windows?

Well, I certainly never did. Windows were just a convenience in a building for looking outside from the inside. To check the weather. Enjoy a pretty view. See what's happening in the neighborhood.

And to be thoroughly washed at least once a year, whether they need it or not.

No more. When I look at a building, I see the windows...I mean, really SEE the windows.

What color are the frames? How large are they? Are the windows plain, old rectangular or do they have special decorative touches?

Yes, there is a reason for this change in my appreciation level for the finer points of windows. You see, one day last week, I spent several hours being introduced to the window manufactur-

ing business by Dennis Kelly, vice-president, engineering, for Graham Architectural Products Corporation.

Dennis' and my jobs were paired in the York Chamber of Commerce's Ag Day Exchange program. Purpose of this popular exchange is to "have two people in totally different job circumstances get a true flavor of what each does in a typical day," explained the introductory letter.

Graham Architectural specializes in a unique type of window business, the manufacture of replacement windows for commercial buildings. These are generally much larger windows than the sort on your home and mine. They are designed for schools, colleges, hotels and restoration of old, historic buildings. Their aluminum structure often reproduces the intricate craftsmanship of woodworkers who crafted original

windows a century or more ago. After sharing background information on the firm, less than ten miles from our front door, Dennis took me on an extensive and fascinating tour of window making. From intricate computer design (no more penciled blueprints), to heat-baked painting applications, to extreme-weather testing, to final careful packaging of these sometimes huge aluminum-and-glass sections, the business demands constant attention to quality and safety.

The day before, Dennis had arrived at our front door at a chilly 7 a.m., for his day of dairy farming. He was soon dipping and cleaning udders, putting on milkers and learned fast to keep an eye in all directions when working in an alley with the business-end of cows in close proximity on both sides.

Then it was on to feeding the young stock, as Dennis delivered bottles to a dozen baby calves, scooped feed for heifers, fed hay and helped bed pens with straw.

He bravely went to scattering straw, surrounded by at least ten inquisitive, 300-pound "pets" (read pests) sniffing his boots and trying to nibble his pockets. Only later, did I realize he did not know that cows have teeth only on the bottom, and cannot bite.

While we had hoped to give him a feel for fieldwork, perhaps a round or two of disking or harrowing, rains had left the soil too damp for that. Instead, the week found us deep - literally - into one of the least glamorous of all farm jobs; emptying the manure storage. Dennis good-naturedly observed the process and hopped aboard a loaded tractor-tank hauling rig.

With a registry deadline close

for a trio of weaned calves, I imposed on Dennis' engineering background. Armed with clipboards, pencils and calf registry applications, we singled out two of the calves which needed sketching. He very ably drew off a mostly black calf with white feet and belly, in spite of more curious nibbling at pockets by our friendly bovine youngsters.

Neither of us, I'm pretty sure, is ready to switch careers. But, several people in our tiny corner of the universe now have much greater insight and understanding of different sorts of life's work, thanks to the Ag Day Exchange.

And, boy, it's certainly given me a new outlook on windows.

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## A Mother's Perspective

(Continued from Page B2)

vowel sounds (ba,ba, wa,wa, da,da . . .) are punctuated by 'making raspberries' and 'pig snoots.' I understand her (most of the time) and she seems to understand me (most of the time). We mimic each other like mirror images, becoming closer with each new conversation we have.

And, most profound, is the love that I have for my daughter. It's an unconditional love. I would lay down my life if need be for her. I had that feeling of security from my mother. I sense that Rachael sees that in me. Not overprotec-

tion - but rather safety, with plenty of room for exploration with encouragement, guidance, and confidence.

I'm proud of my little girl. She is the bright spot in every day. There is nothing more pleasing to me than to see her smiling face, eyes wide with wonderment, greet me every morning. "Good morning Doodle-Bug! Did you sleep well?" Her outstretched arms soon find their way around my neck and we swap good morning hugs and kisses.

Rachael is fourth generation on the family farm. Though my

mother is not with us here in this life, she lives vividly in my memory. I need only look in the mirror to see her face. I was fortunate as a child to have known both sets of grandparents, and I am richer for the experience. Rachael is lucky, too, that she is adored by her paternal grandparents as well as my father. And her great-grandmother, whose middle name (Emily) she carries, has shared some special times with her too. Rachael Emilijean will come to know and cherish the memory of her grandmother, Jean Burleson, through me.

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