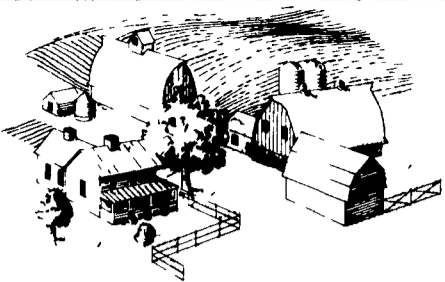


# FARM MANAGEMENT

By Patricia Powley



## "Landing a Job: Strategies for Farm Wives"

Because of the instability of the agricultural economy, many rural homemakers are looking for work outside the home for the first time in years -- maybe ever.

If you're one of these women, resist the urge to say to yourself, "But who would hire me? I've just been a farm wife." Instead, take another look at what being a farm wife means, and translate that into job skills.

As a farm wife, you do many things well. You handle phone calls and get messages to the right people. You may be the purchasing agent in charge of ordering before the feeders and fuel tanks run empty.

You can run a financial statement on your home computer. You are head bookkeeper, and in charge of cost control. Your loyalty and helpfulness are beyond measure. You may be in the middle of preparing a meal when your husband comes in and says, "Honey, run to town and pick up two new hydraulic hoses. The loader just broke down!" You drop everything, run to town, deliver the hoses to your husband, and probably still get a good meal on the table.

You can operate machinery on the farm, and keep a household appliance running long after its normal life. You have a common sense about you that can't be taught.

Thinking through your experi-

ences as a farm wife can help you begin a job search with confidence. Maturity and life experiences are pluses many employers are looking for.

During the up-coming months when I have an article in this farm management column, I will be addressing how you can analyze your job skills, prepare a resume, write a cover letter, and present yourself professionally during a job interview.

## "Before You Start the Job Search"

Before you begin the actual job hunt, write down your feelings about skills you like and dislike, and knowledge that may make a difference in the kind of jobs you look for.

For example, you may want to start with the following:

- "I like" or "I dislike"
- working with children
- working alone
- working with the public
- communicating via telephone
- creating artistic projects
- doing repetitious work
- helping others.

This list of likes and dislikes is for your use only, not to share with an employer. It can clarify what kinds of jobs you should try for.

It might also be helpful to write down the experiences you have had as a rural homemaker. Mention skills and experiences you

have had managing the farm. These can translate into marketable skills.

If you have been the bookkeeper in your farm business or have managed the household budget, you have skills needed in a variety of businesses. If you have purchased insurance for the home and farm, you have awareness about insurance policies which many people don't have.

These experiences are important in all areas of farm and home management. You have used management skills daily. You budget time and money, work with all kinds of people, and delegate responsibilities to keep things running

## "Personal Characteristics"

In addition to specific skills as a farm wife, you have personal characteristics that are valuable to an employer. As you read through the following list, identify characteristics that you have. These can be referred to in your resume, as well as in a job interview.

- \* "Ability to communicate" -- organize thoughts and ideas effectively, express them clearly in speaking and writing.
- \*\*"Intelligence" -- understand job assignment, learn details of operation, contribute new and original ideas.
- \*\*"Self-confidence" -- have a sense of maturity and direction, deal positively and effectively with situations and people.
- \*\*"Willingness to accept responsibility" -- recognize what needs to be done and do it.
- \*\*"Initiative" -- identify purposeful work and take action.
- \*\*"Leadership" -- guide and direct others to obtain objectives.
- \*\*"Energy level" -- demonstrate forcefulness and capacity to move things ahead.
- \*\*"Imagination" -- confront and deal with problems that may not have standard solutions.
- \*\*"Flexibility" -- adapt to change

- and incorporate new ideas.
- \*\*"Interpersonal skills" -- bring out best efforts of individuals.
- \*\*"Self-knowledge" -- assess realistically own capabilities, recognize strengths and weaknesses.
- \*\*"Ability to handle conflict" -- function well under stress.

## Lancaster County Swine Club To Meet

The Lancaster County 4-H Swine Club will meet on June 8 at 6:30 p.m. for a recreational night. The meeting will feature an ice

cream social at Chiques Church Pavilion. For more information, contact Karen Becker at 665-7283.

It is important to "sell" yourself to potential employers.

## Hershey School Farms

(Continued from Page A23)  
heavy plastic."

Dugan doesn't give his stands a rest period in late summer to store up energy. "I've found it's not necessary, and universities are finding the same thing. If you keep your fertilizer rates up, you don't have to worry about a rest period. The only rest period I give is the days between cuttings."

### Pest management

Pests are kept to minimum with Eptam, Boran, and Velpar and with rotation. "We run a pretty good rotation, so we're not planting the same things in the same fields all the time," said Dugan. "Our fields are in alfalfa for three

to four years, corn for three years, small grains such as barley or wheat or soybeans for two years, and back to alfalfa."

This year is the last year for the Alfalfa Growers' Program, which is mostly an education program. Officials feel that Pennsylvania farmers have pretty well learned all of what they have to teach and new findings can be passed on by Extension agents.

Dugan and school officials are hoping to repeat last year's efforts. It will be the stand's second year. "In the second, third, and fourth years, yield will trail off a bit," reported Dugan. "But I hope it doesn't trail off very far this year!"



Alfalfa is first cut at early bud stage. Dugan checks this stand's maturity.

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