

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



A regal queen on a royal throne, that's what she looks like.

Surveying the surroundings from her lofty position, she reigns over her very own little kingdom. Few dangers threaten her, since a devoted and mighty security patrol watches, ever alert, ready to do instant battle with any foe.

Well, maybe not so mighty, but certainly devoted.

But none of us is about to do battle with this security force. Though he might be a featherweight, our Canada goose gander patrol packs a power greater than his slight poundage might suggest. And he's powered by a short-tempered fuse, easily sparked by the slightest intrusion.

If our calculations — based on a gestation chart from one of my prized almanacs — are correct, there should be goslings afloat on the big pond within a week. The "island" we wrestled some weeks ago onto pilings in the center of the pond is about to produce its first harvest.

We were pretty certain of the goose couple's acceptance of the mid-pond nesting offering when they began physically and verbal-

ly (do geese verbalize?) running off anything that got even close to their chosen homesite. That included other geese, a couple of Mallard pairs scouting nesting niches, humans setting foot anywhere near the pond bank, and even passing tractors.

Consider, if you will, the frustration level of a lovesick goose declaring war on an International 806.

Mrs. Goose, meanwhile, sits tight on the raised wooden-pallet platform decorated in camouflage cornstalks, bushy branches and soft grass, stretching her long, black neck to peer warily at visitors. She leaves the nest only briefly, to preen in the water and partake of pond-bottom fast food. Her protective mate, we believe, spends his nights on the "porch" of the nesting platform, moving in early morning to the pond's south bank, where the farmstead can be watched for potential pond pests.

Not all our nesting mothers have such a support system. But then, not all are quite as selective about homesites, either.

On a recent morning, I bent to

yank a bale of straw from up in the mow of the bank barn and came face to face with the lavender guinea hen. In typical guinea fashion, she hunkered down on so many eggs that a few spilled beyond the reach of her feathers.

Two, roosters we figure, regularly screech and squawk every evening on their way to roost in the old barn. That leaves two of the flock of five unaccounted for, probably hens hidden somewhere on their own caches of eggs.

Less secretive are the bantam hens, more stubborn than sensible about nesting. With all sorts of cozy, safe, hidden niches around the place, they'll pick some senseless location like the middle of an in-use hay rack or a bare cement corner of a feed alleyway.

When he learned that a neighbor was pitching out eggs being laid by his pet wild turkeys, the Farmer acquired a few to relocate under our broody bantams. One little chicken has cooperatively assisted, remaining faithful to a nest of oversized substitute eggs. But the other has, twice, fled the sheltered, straw-cushioned site he provided to go sit on a flat, bare, exposed spot she had originally chosen. And not a single egg anywhere near it.

Even more amusing is the feathered dynamo that began depositing one small, brown egg every day in the grain feed cart. Each evening, he would remove the hen's contribution as he fed grain; and every morning, there'd be a new replacement.

After having contributed well over a dozen truly-farm-fresh eggs to the kitchen refrigerator, she now continues to sit in the corner of the cart, hatching a patch of dusty grain-cart floor. The temper

tantrum she throws nightly on her ejection from the feed cart is loud and long.

If chickens swear, we've no doubt been called every poultry cuss word imaginable.

Cook's Question

(Continued from Page B8)

ANSWER — Fay Bordner, Hummelstown, wanted recipes for blueberry or strawberry syrup for pancake toppings. Thanks to Carolyn Gutshall, Carlisle; Anna Brubaker, East Earl; and Mrs. Austin Hough, Sussex, N.J.; for sending recipes.

Blueberry Sauce

Stir together:

¼ cup water

¼ cup sugar

1 tablespoon cornstarch

Add:

2½ cups blueberries

1 tablespoon lemon juice

Cook over medium heat for 1 minute. Serve hot.

For a quick dessert, toast slices of frozen pound cake, top with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and warm blueberry sauce.

Pancake Syrup

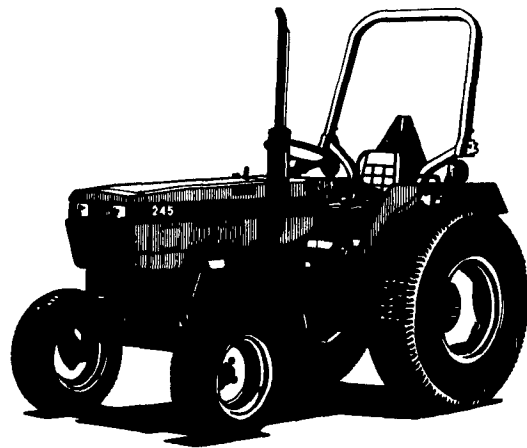
Wash all fruit or berries. Drain but do not dry. For each 6 cups berries, add 4½ cup sugar. Set in cool place for 8 hours or overnight. Stir well and place on stove. Cook until candy thermometer reaches about 220 degrees. It will take about 20 to 30 minutes. Stir often to prevent scorching. You can remove fruit or strain, then reheat and ladle into hot sterilized jars. Contributor prefers to leave fruit in syrup.

When USDA Issues A Recall

You turn on the radio or TV and hear the announcer say "The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced a voluntary recall of XYZ pasta and meat balls in 8-ounce cans..." This is a "product recall," but what does that mean?

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service have personnel available around the clock to check out claims of contaminated food products and, if necessary, implement a product recall system to protect the public health.

Case International 245 Diesel



The Case International 245 Compact Tractor puts big output to work on yards, parks and farms. There's a weather-beating MFD option, smooth-shifting 9F/3R transmission and a series of productive new four-season implements. Case IH 3-cylinder diesel power provides maximum fuel efficiency and high productivity. Category I 3-point hitch makes implement hook-up fast and easy. A dual-speed 540/1150 rpm rear-mounted PTO increases your all-season implement versatility. There is also a 2400 rpm live mid-PTO option available for the optional synchromesh transmission, for powering shaft-driven mid- and front-mounted implements. The 245 offers a new, larger seat with improved suspension and thick padding for added comfort. Convenient controls and full instrumentation are positioned for easy operation and reduced operator fatigue. There's a maintenance-free battery, and an easy access flip-up hood makes routine service a snap.

See us today for a Case IH 245 Compact Tractor that can keep you on top of tough schedules.

Now You Can Buy Any 200 Series Case IH Tractor For Only 10% Down & 8.9% Financing For 36 Months

PARTS & SERVICE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

R.S. HOLLINGER & SON, INC.

Lawn, Farm And Garden Equipment
113 W. MAIN STREET • MOUNTVILLE, PA 17554

Phone 717-285-4538

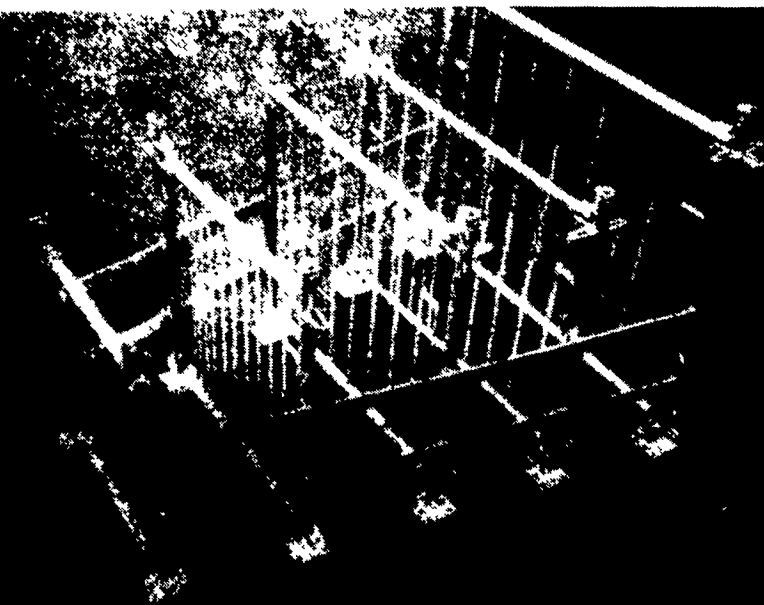
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 7:30 AM-6 PM; Tues. & Thurs. 7:30 AM-6 PM; Saturday 7:30 AM-3 PM



FARMER BOY AG FENCING

Tired Of Replacing Gates?
Farmer Boy Ag Has Your Answer.
Buy'em and Forget 'em
Look Inside - You'll Be Impressed!

Farmer Boy Fencing is Hot Dip Galvanized after fabrication (inside and outside) covering all weld spots for the ultimate rust protection.



FEATURES:

- Vertical Rod or Horizontal Rod
- Solid Or Tubular (Schedule 40).
- Fasteners Available - Thunderstuds, T-Bolts, Etc.

We Stock A Full Line Of
Bins And Augers

Check Our Ware-
House Prices

Swine & Poultry Systems Specialists

FARMER BOY AG.

410 E LINCOLN AVE MYERSTOWN PA 17067 PH 717-866-7565

24 Hour Service

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:00 to 5:00; Saturday 7:30 to 11:30



SOMETHING TO
CROW ABOUT....

**MEMORIAL
WEEKEND SING!**
- 3 BIG DAYS -
LANDISVILLE
CAMPMEETING
GROUNDS

(Church St., Landisville)
Friday, MAY 25 -
7:30 PM

* DIXIE MELODY BOYS

* SINGING AMERICANS

Saturday, MAY 26
7 P.M.

* SPEER FAMILY

* CHRONICLE-
"Kingsboys"



* BARBARA FAIRCHILD
* DONNIE SEABOLT
BAND

Sunday, May 27
2:30 P.M.

* FOX BROTHERS

* DOWN EAST BOYS

* HENRY and HAZEL
SLAUGHTER

Tickets, \$7 per day-
3 days \$18

Children 12 & under
Free/Parent

Rain or Shine - Seating
Under Cover

Camping Available
Refreshments

Call
(215) 775-4627

for info.