

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



The rush of dread that washed over me as I approached the pen lasted only momentarily.

Sadness quickly replaced it. I quickly reached in and lifted out Skunk, the big black and white cat, which crouched there on the straw.

But it was too late. Gus lay limp, his soft, gray-furred body still warm. Just as we were getting attached to the gentle, tame "Easter bunny" gift to our son, this tragic, accidental clash of two pets had ended his life.

I wanted to be angry with Skunk, but knew that would be wrong. Skunk, though he's affectionate and gentle, is a farm cat. He patrols the fields and barns for mice and rats. And cats are unable to differentiate between tame and wild in potential prey.

A wire run which attached to Gus's pen allowed us to move him about the yard to different spots, where he grazed on the fresh green grass and stretched out in the sunshine. In fact, Gus so preferred grass that he literally turned up his wiggly gray nose at lettuce. Skunk had found a loose spot in the wire and wood run and wiggled

through it.

While Gus' stay with us was much too short, the little rabbit carved a niche in the corners of our hearts where we keep warm memories of pets that we've known — and loved — and lost.

Looking back over the years, we've loved quite a few pets of varying sorts.

Princess and Dusty always come to mind. This loveable mother-and-daughter pair of collie dogs saw our babies into toddlerhood, and helped me bid our oldest farewell the first day she stepped on the school bus. Not too long after that, Princess was killed when a car hit her.

Her daughter went into mourning in the springhouse, absolutely refused to eat or drink for several weeks, and died of obvious heartbreak.

That was a tough one for the kids to understand. It wasn't a whole lot easier for the grownups, either.

An accident similar to that of Gus' also took away Ali, our daughter's beloved and incredibly tame guinea pig. Ali (short for Alabama, which was her name

when she was given to us) loved to roam the yard, running for cover if any danger threatened. Our cats and dogs knew her and let her alone. But a friend's dog, a dog accustomed to hunting groundhogs, never knew the difference when he hopped from her car one day and Ali happened to be out nibbling grass. No one felt worse about it than my good friend; but it was just an accident.

Lamb Chop was a - what else? - sheep which we bottle raised for a neighbor, a triplet barely alive when she arrived in our kitchen. Prayers and warm milk brought her through the crisis, and she grew into a great pet of the kids. A year later she had Scooter, a rambunctious youngster which eventually joined Grandpa's little flock of meadow-munchers when he took to ramming the kids. Lamp Chop fell prey to one of the mysterious maladies that sometimes affect sheep - and we were out of the shepherd business.

The teenage girl "horse" period we went through with our daughter brought us two equine "temps" one winter. A program in which summer camp trailride horses were farmed out to willing boarders through the off-season brought us Gaucho and his buddy whose name eludes me.

Gaucho I remember because he instinctively knew a non-horse person and inevitably found some way to wrap me around a fencepost. While our daughter missed them, this Mom had no regrets at sending them back to camp.

The "temps" were replaced with Jubee, an ex-barrel-racing mare that thrived on competing with the three-wheeler on runs through the hayfield. Jubee was tearfully sold when her owner needed college money; and we

were also out of the horse business.

But we remain in the cow, cat, and dog business and will no doubt continue to love pets, despite the hurt when we lose one. After all, 'Tis better to have loved

and lost, then never to have loved at all" doesn't only apply to people.

They're redesigning the pen for a pair of bunnies.

Here we go again.

## Win Year's Supply Of Ice Cream

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program (PDPP), Giant Foods, Inc., of Carlisle, and the Harrisburg Senators have teamed up to sponsor the "Ice Cream Home Run Inning" contest. Harrisburg area residents can win a year's supply of ice cream by entering the contest at participating Giant Food Stores.

Each week, drawings will be held from names collected at participating stores. Three names will be selected for each Senator game (a total of 140 games are scheduled). Then, the first three Harrisburg Senator's batting in the fourth inning will be competing for each respective contestant. If any one of the three batters hits a home run, their contestant may win a one year supply of ice cream.

For all names drawn, a consolation prize — one-half gallon of ice cream — will be awarded by Giant Food Stores, Inc. The contest begins on April 10, and will end no later than September 15.

The "Ice Cream Home Run Inning" contest is part of a radio advertising promotion with the Harrisburg Senators Baseball Club. Interested persons can enter the contest at in-store displays at any participating Giant Food Store in the Carlisle/Harrisburg/Lebanon area. Further information and contest rules will be posted at Giant's in-store displays.

Fans visiting Riverfront Stadium will also be able to win in the "Billboard Home Run" contest. If their game program bears a stamp on the PDPP and Giant advertisement on page 39 of the program,

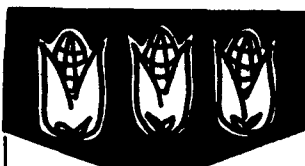
they will be eligible for a consolation prize or the grand prize.

In the "Billboard Home Run" contest, the grand prize will be awarded if a Harrisburg Senator ballplayer hits a homerun over the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program/Giant Foods Ice Cream Billboard in left center field. The contest will be conducted at home games only. The contestant will be eligible to win the grand prize only at the game mentioned on the program.

Limit one grand prize winner per household. No substitutions or transfer of prizes permitted unless otherwise indicated. The odds of winning a prize will depend upon the number of eligible entries received. By entering the contests, entrants consent to the use of their names and/or photographs without additional compensation, in any publicity carried out by the contest sponsors.

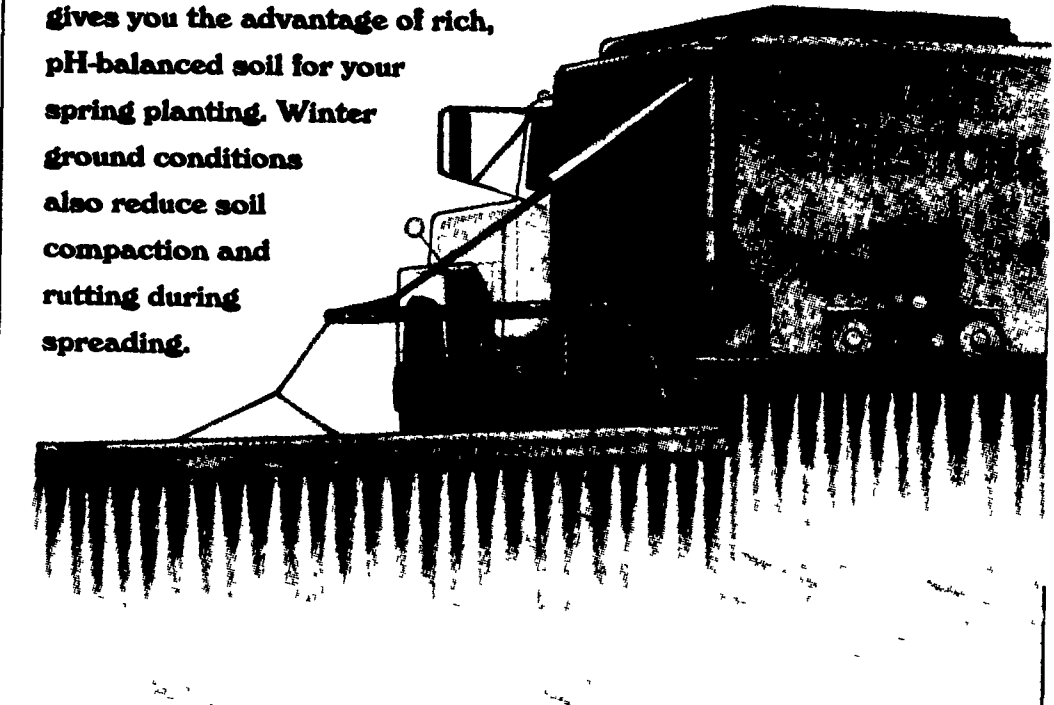
The contests are open to all United States residents. Employees of the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program and Giant Food Stores, Inc., are not eligible. The contests are subject to all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. By participating, entrants agree to these rules and the decisions of the judges, which shall be final.

Further information about the contests is available by calling the PDPP at (717) 787-6903. A complete copy of the contest rules can be obtained by sending a self addressed and stamped envelope to the PDPP, 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17110-9408.



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