

# On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



Think spring!  
That two-word message head-lined the advertising signboard of a neighborhood hardware store I drove past on a sunny afternoon last week.

Spring. A truly lovely word, conjuring up pleasant pictures of greening grass, a gentle sort of breeze, and cheery yellow crocus blooms poking up through moist, brown earth.

Spring fever hit me even earlier than usual, in this most snow-less, barren, brown, monotonous-weather winter in memory.

With no snow cover, the soils and dormant crops have no sheltering blanket against the harsh, drying winds. No insulating layer of white tempers the freeze/thaw alternates which heave the root systems of alfalfa and fall-planted grains out of the soil.

And, most critically, almost no snow has accumulated to soak

through topsoil and filter down to replenish still-short supplies of life-giving water, not just for farms, but for everything dependent on Mother Earth's moisture.

Not to mention the lack of slippery stuff for us restless snow lovers whose skis and sleds sit lonely, unneeded and gathering dust.

The Farmer wished this snow-less-ness on us, he did. Some weeks ago, as I lamented the lack of white stuff, he expressed a preference for no snow - because of the extra work and mess it makes around the barn and feeding areas.

Okay, if there's to be no snow, then winter begone. Git. Think spring.

The Canada geese already are. "Our" family of four has been making return visits to the pond in recent weeks. Periodically, the big pair examines the mid-pond nesting site where they hatched out goslings for the past two springs.

Appearance of a fifth (a stranger courting one of the young ones?) on a recent morning brought a couple hours of loud honking, airborne arguing, and neck-stretched chases. The melee seemed to mightily amuse the mallards nonchalantly waddling about in the thick of the battle.

A small bouquet of pussywillow branches on a windowsill is showing pale green leaves above soft gray catkins, with tiny roots sprouting from stems immersed in water. In a sheltered corner near the house, upstart dandelions are pushing out jagged foliage. Inches away, a clump of yellow-tipped daffodil foliage huddles around a fat bud hugging tight to the ground.

And we're a few cows farther down the milking lineup each evening before daylight fades outside the dairy barn windows.

Funny though. That "think spring" sign caught my eye as I hurried up the road to the local convenience store. We were out of bread - and the weather forecasters were warning of a winter storm front barreling our way.

Sure enough, by morning the ground was white, with several hours more of flakes and slippery conditions predicted. The daffodils and dandelion got buried. So did the day's meeting plans, leaving several hours of unexpected, wintry-wonderland free time.

With birdfeeders restocked for our ever-hungry feathered dependents, Solomon and I glided toward the meadow. Fresh snow never

fails to add a fairyland dimension to the familiar landscape of woodlot and heifer pasture.

Tracks in the snow marked where others had preceded us, squirrels and rabbits and birds of various sizes. A pile of brush was transformed from just limbs and twigs to a piece of modern art, white on dark, angular patterned, textured, snowy shadows adding

depth.  
Round bales stacked on a wagon looked like a giant serving of sugar-coated shredded wheat. And the dark-fuzzed cattail heads ringing the little pond were reminiscent of chocolate eclairs topped with ice cream. (Note how even a smidgeon of fresh air and exercise focuses the mind on food....).  
Think spring!  
But keep the snow toys handy.

## PDPP Has Summer Intern Position

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program has announced the continuation of its summer internship program.

The PDPP's summer intern will be involved in the coordination of two statewide promotion campaigns, one during June Dairy Month, and the second during July Ice Cream Month.

The successful candidate will be working with the staff on press releases, media visits, and general coordination of several events in key media markets. In addition, the intern will experience the PDPP's total promotion activities in Pennsylvania.

"Our internship program has been very successful over the past several years," said Betsy Dupuis, communications director.

"Both of our recent interns have

been a big part of our effective statewide promotions of ice cream. We plan to have our 1992 intern involved in both June and July promotions to give them an opportunity to work in several different media markets."

For the internship, the PDPP is looking for students pursuing careers in communications and/or marketing. Special emphasis will be placed on students who have agricultural experience and effective communications skills. Students must be in their fifth semester of study to qualify for the internship.

"We are especially adamant about communications skills because of the intern's job responsibilities," added Dupuis. "We encourage all applicants to send writing samples along with their application to aid us in the selection process."

To apply for the position, students should send a cover letter, resume and writing samples to Betsy Dupuis, Communications Director, the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17110. All applications must be received by February 28, 1992, to receive consideration.

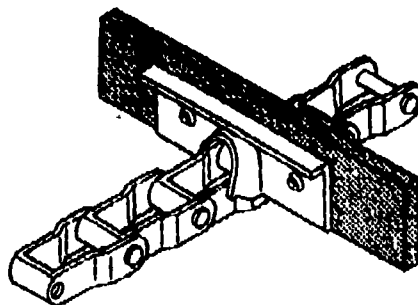
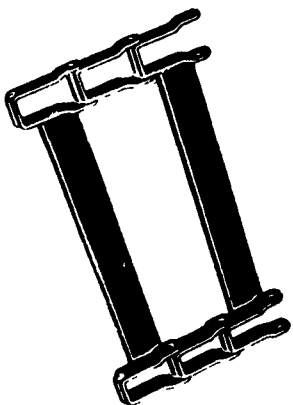
The assignment with the PDPP will be for 12 weeks, beginning in mid-May and ending in late July, 1992. Further information about the internship is available by calling Dupuis at (717) 787-5993.

# CONVEYOR CHAIN

- Manure Spreaders
- Forage Boxes
- Limespreaders
- Feed Wagons
- Elevators
- Sandspreaders

(specials made to order)

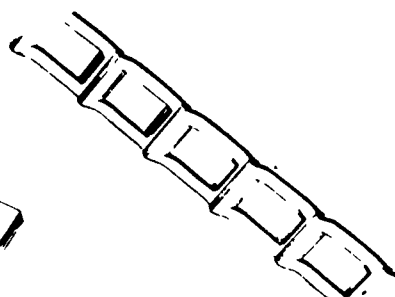
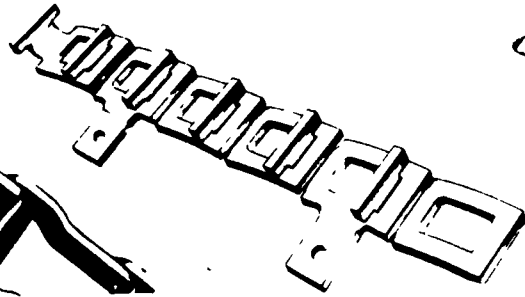
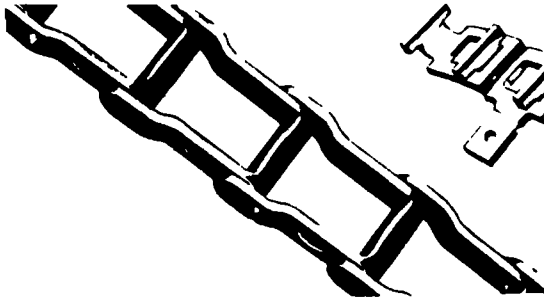
Special  
**\$5.98** per ft.



PINTLE CHAIN

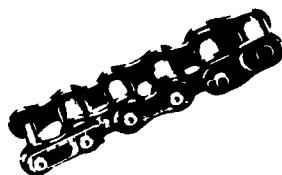
T-BAR CHAIN

STEEL DETACHABLE



SPROCKETS

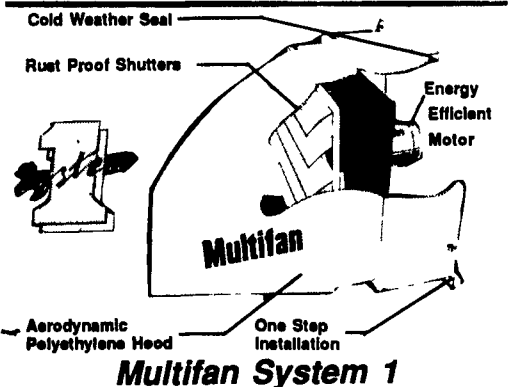
ROLLER CHAIN



## PRATT INDUSTRIES

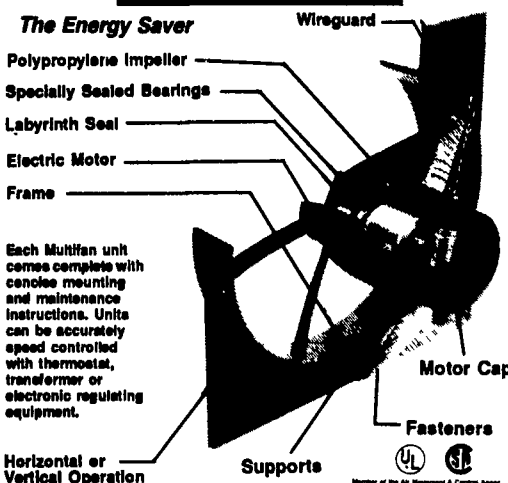
CALL FREE  
800-342-3522

### Multifan - CONTROLLED VENTILATION



Multifan System 1

#### The Multifan Advantage ...



Each Multifan unit comes complete with enclosure mounting and maintenance instructions. Units can be accurately speed controlled with thermostat, transformer or electronic regulating equipment.

Full Line Of Parts In Stock For Your Poultry & Hog Needs

WE SHIP UPS

Swine & Poultry Systems Specialists

### FARMER BOY AG. INC.

410 E. Lincoln Ave., Myerstown, PA 17067

Hours: M-F 7:00-5:00; Sat. 7:30-11:30 717-866-7565 a-22