

Joan Loeb Heads Berks County Farm Women

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
OLEY (Berks Co.)—When she was 19 years old, Joan Loeb joined Farm Women on what she called a "challenge."

At that time, Farm Women members were selective on whom they allowed to become a member. Joan heard about two applicants who had just been refused membership. Out of curiosity, she decided to apply and see if they would accept her.

They did. Since then, Joan has had four children and four grandchildren, but her interest in Farm Women never has faltered. She now heads the Berks Farm Women with its 11 societies and 183 members. In 1985, Joan had also been president of the county groups.

Unlike the era when Joan was installed as a Farm Women member, she finds that now it is difficult to attract new members because of busy lifestyles. In order to accommodate women who work during the day, Joan's society has changed from daytime to night meetings. Even with that change, it is difficult for many women to find time for the meetings because of other

community, church, and family responsibilities.

Joan adamantly supports Farm Women and their projects. She is excited about the upcoming project, "Food for the Homeless," which will be held on Agriculture Day, March 20.

For that members are collecting imperishable food items to donate to the Greater Berks Food Banquet.

This is the second year for the Farm Women project. Last year, they collected 400 pounds of food. This year, they expect more because 4-H, FFA, and the Farm-City Council are also participating in the project. Those who would like to donate to this project, may call Joan at (215) 689-5579.

Because five members out of the 17 members in Joan's Farm Women Group are in their 80s, Joan said, they need to be selective in choosing activities in which all can participate.

"We go on lots of field trips, eat a lot, and volunteer at a local county home," Joan said. County members have hosted two state Spring Rallies, the latest was last year.

Joan is married to Richard Loeb.

They have three daughters 25, 24, and 22, and a 10-year-old son.

Joan said the advantage of having a younger son after the older children are gone is that it is not difficult to adjust to the noise of grandchildren.

Joan serves as secretary to the Berks Heim County Home Volunteer Board. She spends a lot of time helping her daughter and son-in-law who have two children and work on a dairy farm.

In her spare time, Joan likes to quilt, cross stitch, and help people. She also loves cooking but not cleaning up. Here is one of her favorite recipes.

TUNA POT PIE

- 1½ cups diced potatoes
- 1½ cups carrots, diced
- 1 cup peas
- 3 tablespoons chopped onions
- Milk
- Cook vegetables until soft; drain liquid in cup, add enough milk to make 1½ cups liquid.
- ¼ cup butter
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 can tuna
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Pie dough for top pastry
Melt butter, blend in flour, add liquids. Stir until thick, pour over vegetables. Add tuna and season-

ing. Put in 1½ -quart casserole. Roll out pie dough and place on top of casserole for top crust. Bake at 400 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes.



Joan Loeb
Berks Co. Farm Women
president

The Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania was founded October 14, 1914. Its purpose is to contribute to the power and influence of the farm home; to contribute to the community activity of farm women; to develop leadership and to promote better living and working conditions in the farm homes of Pennsylvania. The 16 county societies have a state membership of 3,371. Check this section weekly for a feature story on individual Farm Women presidents from Pennsylvania.

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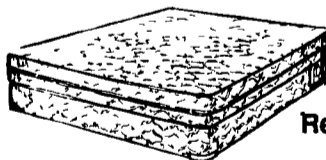


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