

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



It was our lucky day. No, make that, it was our Lucky's day.

Lucky is a cow. On a recent morning, early on what evolved into one of the hottest, stickiest, most humid days of the season, Lucky gave birth to a bouncing baby girl calf. This was a decidedly ordinary and routine blessed event.

Which is unusual because Lucky is not necessarily a "round-tune" cow.

Lucky, on occasion, displays an attitude problem. Plus, she's not the smartest animal in the herd.

Early on in her first milking lactation, Lucky would occasionally dance and prance when her udder

was washed or the milk attached. Again, this is fairly ordinary, especially with first-time heifers.

Then one day, unbeknownst to any of us, Lucky scratched or bruised one of her teats. And, during afternoon milking, when our student/employee Scott attached the milker, she "nailed" him in the face with a swift back foot, leaving him with a bloodied nose and slightly crooked glasses.

It was his unlucky day, one he's never forgotten. Lucky day for me though; most evenings, I would have been milking that side of the barn.

And while the teat soon healed, apparently the memory didn't. On

occasion, for seemingly no reason, the milkers would fly from Lucky. We all learned to exercise a little extra caution with her unpredictability.

So we collectively groaned a little when Lucky calved, wondering if her temperament had mellowed. (We should be so lucky). But, when The Farmer tried to move her and her calf that morning, she promptly managed to elude him (and nearly flatten him in the process), fleeing with a group of heifers into a more distant pasture and abandoning her calf in the process.

By evening Lucky showed no sign of a voluntary return. Via three-wheeler, she was herded toward the barn, so her calf would have time to nurse before we turned her back into the milking herd. Lucky let the calf nurse, then promptly high-tailed it back to the lower lot, baby by her side.

The second time Lucky was herded to the barn, jumped right into a stall, and uneventfully let The Farmer milk her - lucky for him.

A half-hour later, as I fed calves, Solomon's barking announced a heifer breakout. Heifers were parading out the end of the dairy barn, where heifers aren't supposed to be at all. Heif-

ers in the center alley, heifers in the feed alleys, heifers with their muzzles buried in the feed carts. And no one around to help me.

It took several trips back, forth and around the barn to corral the bunch of four-legged busybodies. I'd chase several out of one alleyway and out the door, run back to chase another batch out another alleyway, and by the time I got back the originals were back in again. When I thought I'd rounded them all up, three more appeared at the feed cart.

Turned out that after Lucky had been put in the barn, the gate to the barn hadn't been closed because all heifers were believed to be around the feed bunk. This batch of stragglers lingering in the meadow smelled that open gate. At least it seems they possess that

ability.

Eventually, I corralled them outside - lucky for me.

Back at calf feeding, and to my amazement, a squirrel zipped past down the shoulder of the road. Squirrels are a rare commodity around the farmstead, due to the headhunter cats who patrol the place. This was one brave (or not too bright) squirrel - probably the same one earlier seen surveying the shop area from the vantage point of a tractor seat.

Moments later, to another round of frantic barking, a gray blur with a bushy tail zipped past in the opposite direction, dog hot on its heels.

A fruitless pursuit - lucky for the squirrel.

Turned out to be a Lucky day for everyone.

4-H'ers Go Camping

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — 4-H members from 20 Eastern Pennsylvania counties are experiencing outdoor living this summer at 4-H Camp Shehaqua located in the Pocono Mountains at beautiful Hickory Run State Park near White Haven.

The Chester County 4-H campers, age 8-14, finished their week-long stay in rustic cabins, meeting new friends, and exploring the out-of-doors. To assist the 55 campers, seven 4-H counselors age 15-19 and numerous adult 4-H staff members and volunteers accompanied the group.

Chester County's camp theme

this year was "4-H Uniting the Nations," emphasizing that diverse races, cultures and ethnic backgrounds make each 4-Her unique. Campers got a taste of the global nature of 4-H by forming "continental groups," then making a flag from a chosen country to be displayed during the opening campfire ceremonies.

Each workshop offered was part of a 4-H project—woodworking, crafts, riflery, nature and physical fitness. Divided according to geographic regions, campers were made more aware of the ecological balance and unity that are needed to unite nations into a global community.

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