

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



Everyone needs to be needed. When the paperwork is piled up to your earlobes, when the phone rings for the umpteenth time in a morning, when the cry for "Mooommmmmmm!" echoes in your ears until you want to scream and slam the door behind you on the way out..... it helps to remember how lonely not being needed would be.

The call of "Mooommmmmmm!" no longer echoes in our household as it does in those where children are resident. Instead, it's been replaced by long-distance "Hi, Mom!" calls from far and even farther away.

Now we have joined the official ranks of "empty nest syndrome" parents, those couples left to rattle around in their own house when the last child departs. In this case, the last child has moved on to Penn State's main campus to complete his final two years toward his agriculture degree.

Our "nest," however, continues to overflow with meeting the needs of a myriad of our other dependents — four-legged type.

Feeding the calves a few morning ago, I broke up laughing at the sight of one particular bunch of our barnyard "children."

Outside the milkhouse is a sort of porch, a flat piece of concrete, which bridges the gap between the

paved driveway and the milkhouse door. Along the upper edge of the porch is a stone retaining wall, edge of a natural, in-ground planter utilizing the sloping hill into which the milkhouse is built.

Lined up along the four feet stretch of the stone wall was a neat row of nearly a dozen rounded, furry backsides. Cats. Black cats, gray cats, black and white cats, gray and white cats, and of course, dark tiger-striped Butch. All in the same pose, the same patient position.

Waiting. Waiting for someone to come through the door with a bucket of milk for their breakfast. Like kids in a cafeteria line, only somewhat more orderly.

Normally, they'll be underfoot through calf feedings, or waiting beside the upturned bucket lids which serve as community cat serving dishes.

Whatever possessed this feline crew to queue up in this most orderly fashion outside the milkhouse door is beyond my imagination. I had been away the previous evening; perhaps their supptime had been overlooked and they had no intention of allowing a repeat of that neglect.

Inside the house, another feline prowls the "empty nest." Actually she has her own nest, a heavy

snuggle-bag coverlet spread over the double beanbag chair — except for when the cover is warming the Farmer though his evening TV-nap. On occasion, he will actually remove the blanket from under the cat, an act of almost unpardonable aggression reflected in her stare at him from steely green eyes.

Then she comes to my lap for comfort and consolation, launching a throaty chirp (this cat does not meow) of greeting. If I linger at the kitchen table doing paperwork beyond the time she considers opening of regular "lap" hours, she parks herself next to the chair and fixes me with an impatient glare.

And the dog has claimed his own niche in the nest — slightly away from the cat's. Our medium-sized, long-haired dog is to be an "outside" pet, though we've not been able to ever completely convince him of that status. Soon after I returned home very late one night from a meeting, the familiar sound of his forepaw scratching at the front door started.

"Did you feed the dog?," I asked the Farmer.

"Yeah; he didn't do that until you got home," came the reply.

Okay, so maybe he's a little spoiled. Knows who takes pity on him on a damp night, lets him in to dry off and then doesn't have the heart to wake him from a sound sleep under the coffee table.

Not even when he opens one eye to see if he'll be overlooked as we get ready for bed. So he can speak onto the couch for the rest of the night.

Empty nest? Not really. The dirty socks, scruffy sweatshirts and pairs of sneakers that feathered the nest have merely been replaced by hair balls.

It's nice to be needed.

Facts and Myths About Eye Care

Here are some common beliefs. Can you tell which are true and which are false?

1 It is safe to wear disposable contact lenses while sleeping.

False. Wearing any contact lens - disposable or daily-wear - during sleep increases the risk of harm to the wearer's eyes.

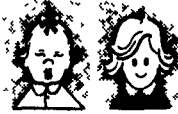


6 Cataracts are removed with lasers.

False. Cataract surgery is the removal of the lens from the eye and its replacement with an artificial lens. A laser may be used later for the post-operative improvement of vision.

2 The normal human infant is born blind.

True. Vision at birth is about 20/400. It then develops by stages - e.g. about 20/200 at six months, 20/100 at one year, etc.



7 Children should have their eyes examined before they are ready for school.

True. Children should have an eye examination when they are three to four years old to check visual acuity, binocular alignment and general eye health. Infants or children exhibiting eye problems should be examined earlier.



3 You need 20/20 vision for safe driving.

False. Most states, including Pennsylvania, require less visual acuity to qualify for a driver's license. Far more dangerous than poor vision is the driver suffering from physical, mental or emotional fatigue.

8 Wearing sun glasses during the day can help you see better at night.

True. Without protection from hours of brilliant daylight, your eyes will lose their ability to perceive objects at night.



4 Wearing another person's prescription glasses may harm your eyes.

False. The wrong prescription probably will be uncomfortable, cause eye fatigue or nausea, but it will not affect the health of your eyes.



9 The three major causes of blindness are cataracts, glaucoma and diabetes.

True. Some authorities, however, feel that the leading cause of blindness is failure to recognize the signs and symptoms of eye problems, and not knowing where to go for help.

5 The eye is an extension of the brain.

True. The eye is part of the brain and a vital part of the human body. It is not a separate organ.

10 A child's crossed eye will usually straighten itself if left alone.

False. Medical or surgical treatment is required to save sight. Treatment may consist of special lenses, a patch worn over the good eye, surgery, or a combination of the three.

Source: Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology

KEY BUYS FOR FEBRUARY

agri·dynamics INC

Biocel/Imu-Cel
265 ml
01657500

\$12.75

Medi-Bac
10 Dose/100
01660000

\$21.85

Oxy-Phyte
30ml Jet
01665000

\$2.09



CORONA OINTMENT

14 oz.
1701000
\$4.85

36 oz.
17015000
\$10.95

CORONA HOOF DRESSING

qt. **\$7.30**
1702500

Gal. **\$19.95**
17027500



CORONA UDDER BUTTER

7 oz. **\$2.95**
170030000

28 oz. **\$6.95**
17035000

FREE CATALOG AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

WE SHIP UPS DAILY! CALL FOR DETAILS

(717) 738-4241
1-800-453-9243

KEY+AID

ACE HARDWARE

1730 West Main Street Ephrata, PA 17522

Store Hours
Mon - Fri. 7:00am to 9:00pm
Sat. 8:00am to 5:00pm.



LOW PRICES. HIGH QUALITY. FRIENDLY SERVICE. CONVENIENT HOURS



USED
WOOD & COAL STOVES
NEW & USED FURNITURE

FISHER'S FURNITURE, INC.

Bart, Pennsylvania 17503

Rt. 896 at Georgetown - 6 Miles

South of Strasburg

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SAVE **COUPON** SAVE

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

As Low As **\$169** Installed

Siding, Roofing, Doors, Decks, Gutter Painting, Wallpaper, Additions, Remodeling

25% OFF - Siding, Roofing (Jan. & Feb.)

(800) 982-8068 (215) 796-9333

PENN STATE WINDOW & SIDING CO.

GOOD FOOD OUTLET STORES

See Our Original Line Of Golden Barrel Products Plus All Kinds Of Beans, Candies, Dried Fruit, Snack Mixes, Etc. At Reduced Prices



- * BAKING MOLASSES
- * BARBADOS MOLASSES
- * BLACKSTRAP MOLASSES
- * CORN SYRUPS
- * HIGH FRUCTOSE SYRUPS
- * MAPLE SYRUP
- * PANCAKE & WAFFLE SYRUPS
- * SORGHUM SYRUP
- * LIQUID & DRY SUGARS
- * CANOLA OIL
- * COCONUT OIL
- * CORN OIL
- * COTTONSEED OIL
- * OLIVE OIL
- * PEANUT OIL
- * VEGETABLE OIL
- * SHOO-FLY PIE MIX
- * PANCAKE & WAFFLE MIX
- * ASSORTMENT OF CANDIES
- * DRIED FRUIT
- * SNACK MIXES
- * BEANS
- * HONEY
- * PEANUT BUTTER
- * BAUMAN APPLE BUTTERS
- * KAUFFAMN PRESERVES
- * SPRING GLEN RELISHES

If your local store does not have it, SEND FOR FREE BROCHURE

Processors Of Syrups, Molasses, Cooking Oils, Funnel Cake Mix, Pancake & Waffle Mix & Shoofly Pie Mix

GOOD FOOD OUTLET

— Located At Good Food, Inc. —
W. Main St., Box 160, Honey Brook, PA 19344
215-273-3776 1-800-327-4406

— Located At L & S Sweeteners —
388 E. Main St., Leola, PA 17540
717-656-3486 1-800-633-2676
— WE UPS DAILY —



SPECIALS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

GOLDEN BARREL OLLIES PANCAKE & WAFFLE SYRUP
24 oz. Regularly \$1.49
NOW **\$1.19**

GOLDEN BARREL LIGHT CORN SYRUP
32 oz. Regularly \$1.99
NOW **\$1.49**

GOLDEN BARREL CORN SYRUP
32 oz. Regularly \$1.69
NOW **\$1.29**

GOOD FOOD WINROSS TRUCKS \$40.00