

# Never Too Busy To Head Fulton Farm Women

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
MCCONNELLSBURG (Fulton Co.) — When a neighbor first invited Barb Lease to a Fulton County Farm Women meeting, Barb was hesitant about the time commitment required of membership in the organization.

"You need this for yourself," the neighbor advised Barb.

Barb agreed. That was 15 years ago and during those years, Barb said, "I learned that I really do need Farm Women. This is one thing I do that is not related to work. This is my fun group."

Recently Barb was installed as president of the Fulton County Farm Women with its two societies and 30 members.

It is not easy for Barb to take on county leadership, for she works an average of 67 hours a week at the print and newspaper shop that she and her husband purchased about 10 years ago.

"On a particularly bad week, I hit 95 hours, but that's unusual," said Barb whose responsibilities include acting as personnel manager, editor, proof reader, writer, ad salesperson, and whatever else needs to be done at Keystone Printing and Mercersburg Journal, a weekly paper for Franklin County. Barb primarily takes care of the newspaper end while her husband is in charge of the printing division.

Before Barb and her husband purchased the shop, Barb taught English and French at a local high school.

The Leases live on a 53-acre farm where they raise about 50

sheep, a mostly Hampshire cross flock bred for meat.

They also have bee hives set in the fields.

This past week, the family was busy cooking maple syrup on a wood stove. The syrup came from two trees that the Leases tapped close to their house.

"We got a couple of pints for our own use," Barb said. "The project was one that my children and my husband Gene did."

Barb grew up as a city girl in Wilkes Barre. She studied English and theatre at Penn State where she met Gene who grew up on a dairy and beef farm in the McConnellsburg area.

"I always say that I met my husband at Penn State and followed him home," Barb said.

That was about 20 years ago. Now the couple have two daughters and one son, April, 14; Eric, 11; and Rachel, 6.

Unlike many career women, Barb said, "I've been fortunate that I have been able to bring the children to the office while I work. We know where they are, they help out some, and we have no problem with having them at the office."

But life is getting a bit more hectic for Barb explained, "We entered the stage where the kids have an active life, and it takes lots of time to get them to places."

Barb is active in the Chamber of Commerce in both Fulton and Mercersburg. She is a past member of the local library board and several agency boards.

Some of the highlights of her Farm Women membership include holding an auction in November.

"It's when members bid on each other's stuff and donate the money to a local charity or needy person," she said.

Fun activities include going to the Totem Pole Play House and holding an ice cream social and a county covered dish supper with members' families. Members also learn to make many crafts and every two years, the societies hold a county convention.

Of all her activities, Barb said that she derives most of her satisfaction from her husband and children. Barb enjoys family biking on the C&O canal, canoeing, reading, and quilting.

"I find it most frustrating trying to find the time to do things I like to do. She would especially like to spend more time relaxing at home."

"It is a beautiful place with part woods and part open fields for sheep to graze," she said.

With the many demands on Barb's time, she said, "Some things have to go. I don't do housecleaning and neither does anyone else in our family."

But Barb still finds time to cook. Here is one of Barb's favorite recipes. She said, "It is an easy recipe from my grandmother that's good for people on the run and tastes good too."



Barbara Lease  
Fulton Co. Farm Women president

## STREUSEL TOPPED COFFEE CAKE

3 3/8 cups flour  
2 tablespoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
Sift dry ingredients together and add the following ingredients:  
3/4 cup butter, cut in with pastry blender  
3 eggs  
1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
1 1/2 cups milk

Beat together and stir into dry ingredients until moist. May add 1/2 to 1 cup raisins. Pour into 9x13 pan. Make topping.

Topping:  
3/4 cup brown sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon  
4 rounded tablespoons flour  
3 tablespoons melted butter  
3/8 chopped nuts  
Stir together and sprinkle on top of batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes.



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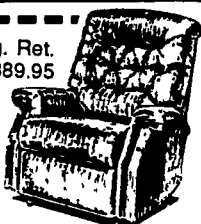
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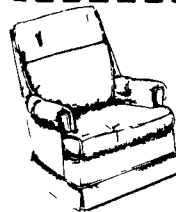


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