

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

**Joyce Bupp**



My recent yearnings for signs of spring have been fulfilled.

On a dark and drab morning, damp, chilly winds ruffled the ponds' surfaces. On closer study, more was stirring the pond waters than March gusts.

Geese? The geese were back!

I grabbed the field glasses, kept ever handy on the microwave, and started counting. Eight mature Canada geese, each identical in greyish-brown feathering and tell-tale white face stripe. Same number of last year's flock of parents and six offspring. Could it be?

But wait. Five more off in another corner of the big pond showed up in the glasses. Plus a couple of mallards hanging around the lower edge of the gray, wind-swept meadow waters.

Even as I watched, though, the smaller flock of geese departed to the noisy accompaniment of honking protests. Their loud, argumentative calls could be heard even behind out tightly-closed doors.

Well, the behavior hadn't changed. But could it really be "our" mating pair of geese, back for a fourth hatching season? Only when we could get a closeup view of the male, identifiable by the smattering of white feathers in his sleek black head, could we be sure.

When we slowly approached the pond, the big birds swam to the distant bank, eyeing us with caution and perhaps distrust.

"Did you see the geese?" asked a voice when I answered the phone that morning. It was neighbor "Bobbie at the bathtub" as she usually identifies herself. (The old bathtub in the cow lot adjoining her house serves as a watering trough.) Bobbie shares our affection for these beautiful birds that have graced us with their fascinating presence since The Farmer devised them a mid-pond meeting site four years ago.

A week of squabbling ensued. The flock of five did not return. But, a second pair showed up

shortly afterward. Run off from the pond, they took refuge in the hayfield several hundred yards away. Honking arguments continued for a day or two. Occasionally, the two pairs shared the waters, but in distant corners.

Could we hope for a second nesting couple? In previous seasons, the original pair eventually chased off all potential squatters in "their" territory — the entire meadow and both ponds.

Even while the two pairs vocally sparred about who was going to claim what, waves of honking sounded overhead. "Vees" of geese streamed steadily northward, groups of a dozen, of thirty, of fifty, and one flock The Farmer spotted and estimated to be at least 150 birds.

Early one morning late last week, a smaller pair of feathered friends turned up in the little pond. We figured the mallards had relocated, until a closer look showed the unmistakable crested head and colorful markings of wood ducks. While the female investigated the wood duck box we installed last spring, the male paddled around beneath it, on guard duty.

A year ago, a pair of wood ducks had similarly explored the box, then mysteriously departed. The wooden nest box later became home to a family of red-winged blackbirds, while a family of wood ducks was spotted weeks later in the stream that slices through the heifer's pasture.

When the wood ducks returned a second morning, we crossed our fingers. Soon after, the goose pair came marching purposefully toward the smaller pond — and we

haven't seen the wood ducks since.

Having chased off all other pretenders to their turf, the geese have calmed down and quiet reigns in the meadow. We finally

edged close enough for a good look — and, sure enough, the larger goose has a scattering of white feathers over his head.

"Our" geese are back. And we're thrilled.

**Tom Jones Performance  
To Benefit Preservation**

YORK (York Co.) — The Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County welcomes the exceptional sound and unique showmanship of the one-and-only Tom Jones on Tuesday, May 4 at 8 p.m. at the Strand Capitol Performing Arts Center in York, for one performance only.

Tickets for the performance are \$75 for Patron tickets which will include a catered reception following the show. General admission tickets are \$45, \$35, and \$30. Tickets went on sale Monday, March 15, at the Strand Box Office.

Proceeds from the performance will benefit the land preservation work of the Farm & Natural Lands Trust, York County's only private non-profit land preservation organization.

In his native Wales, he is known as "Jones the Voice." Today, Tom Jones is one of the enduring personalities in the music entertainment business. His unique vocal power, ability, and charismatic persona make him one of the most respected, admired and loved performers of all time.

Born Thomas Jones Woodward in Pontypridd, South Wales, Great Britain, on June 7, 1940, his father worked in the coal mines, while

his mother tended the house and the two children. Tom began singing at an early age and by 1963, he had gained notoriety with his own group, Tommy Scott and the Senators.


Late in 1974, he landed a record contract and his first hit "It's Not Unusual." An avalanche of gold singles and album were soon to follow: "Delilah," "Help Yourself," "Love Me Tonight," and "I'll Never Fall in Love Again."

Continuing into the '70s gold hits came with "I (Who Have Nothing)," "She's A Lady," and "Tom Jones Live at Caesar's Palace." By the end of 1970, Tom had sold more than 30 million discs in all categories around the world.

Tom enjoys a consistent touring schedule 10 months of the year, both in the U.S.A. and abroad. He lives with his wife of 32 years, Melinda, between their home in Bel Air, CA and their country home in South Wales.

This event is not part of the regular Strand-Capitol Season, and is presented by the Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County.

For tickets or additional information, call the Strand-Capitol Box Office at (717) 846-1111 or the Farm & Natural Lands Trust at (717) 757-7012.



**FPPF Polar Power**  
**Keeps Your Diesel Running In The Worst Winter Cold!**

Fuel filters, separators do nothing to keep diesel fuel from the waxing or gelling that blocks up and clogs fuel lines and filters. FPPF Polar Power contains FPPF's Fuel Power and FPPF's Polarized Diesel Fuel Flow Improver, the industry's leaders. It will keep your diesel running in the worst winter cold: lowering the pour-point, totally dispersing water, eliminating gum/varnish...outperforming all other additives and at lower cost.

For further information, write/call:  
**MILLER DIESEL INC.**  
DIESEL FUEL INJECTION & TURBO CHARGER SPECIALIST  
6030 Jonestown Rd., Harrisburg, Pa. 17111  
717-645-5931 Interstate 81 Exit 26

VISIT OUR NEW SHOWROOM

## OPEN HOUSE

FREE DRAWING! THURS., FRI. & SAT.  
APRIL 1, 2 & 3  
STOREWIDE SAVINGS!  
Bikes • Exercisers • Scooters

**FREE**  
Drawing  
Register to Win  
Door Prizes  
**FREE BIKE**

**3 DAYS ONLY**  
**\$10 OFF**  
**ALL BIKES**  
10% Off Accessories

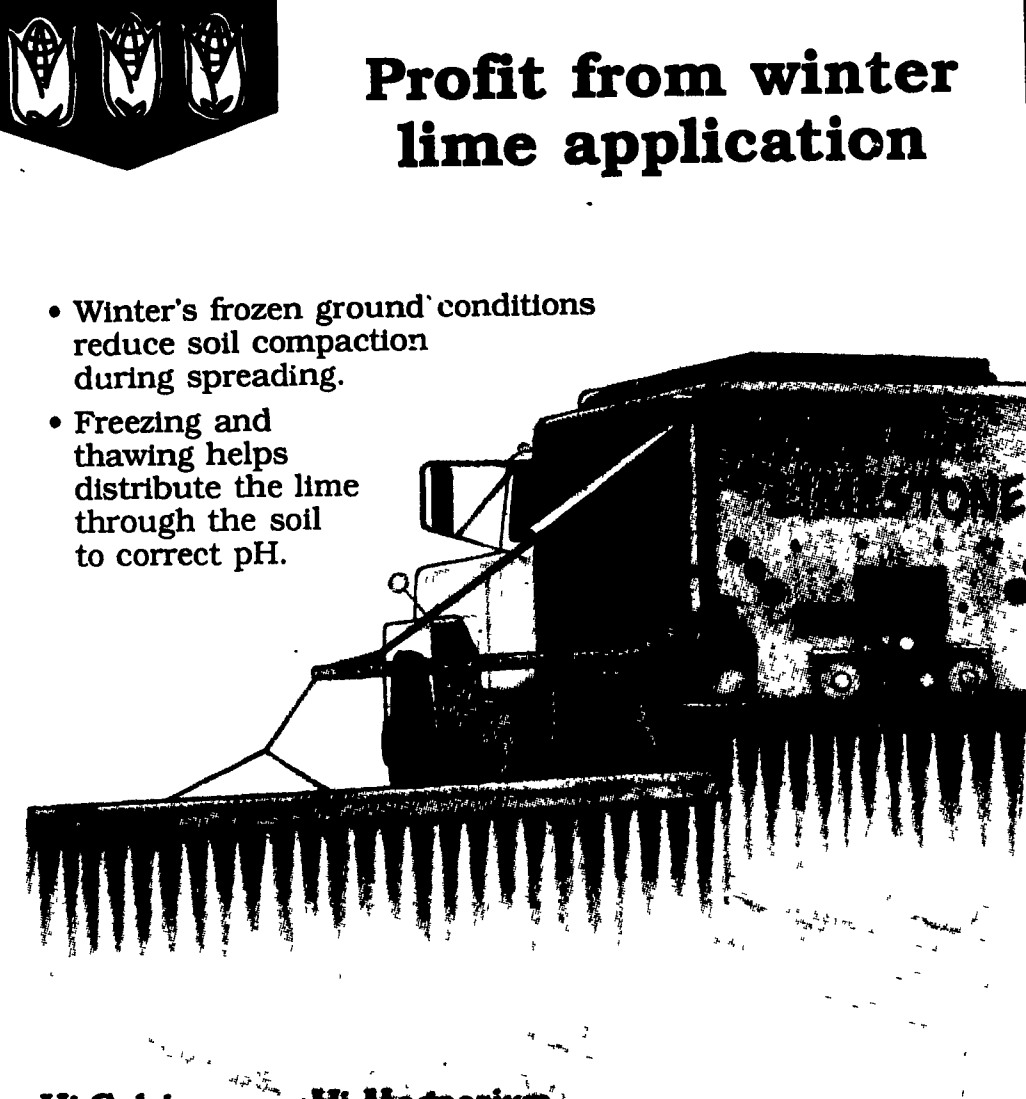
**FREE**  
Coffee &  
Donuts

\$10 OFF ALL HEAD HELMETS

## WEAVER'S BIKE SHOP

"It Pays To Find Us"

Located 1/2 Mile South of Farmersville On  
230 Sheaffer's School Road, Ephrata (Between Farmersville & Leola)  
**656-9385**



## Profit from winter lime application

- Winter's frozen ground conditions reduce soil compaction during spreading.
- Freezing and thawing helps distribute the lime through the soil to correct pH.

**Hi-Calcium    Hi-Magnesium**

# Martin

## LIMESTONE

For prompt delivery contact your local Martin Limestone dealer or call Blue Ball, Pa.

(800) 233-0205  
(717) 354-1370