

Blossomelle Stewart Mandy EX just finished her four-year-old record of 35,661m 1200f 1168p.



Lynn and Rhelda Royer with the Blossommelle herd.

Key To Farming

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farm. That didn't work because the kids would get on the tractors and scare the calves. So, Rhelda called some of the mothers and said that if they wanted the kids to come down to the farm, it was Ok as long as the mothers came along. That didn't work, so Rhelda met with some of the key mothers and asked them to spread the word. "I told them, I don't mind if they come, but don't send the kids alone," Rhelda said. "Too many things can happen, and I don't want to be responsible, and I don't have the time."

Now the neighbors watch out for the farm. Kids from another development came riding on mini-bikes in the Royer fields. The neighbors investigated who it was and called the Royers to let them know it was not one of their kids.

To show how the farm is venerated by the neighbors, Rhelda likes to tell a humorous story about herself. When a neighbor was trying to sell his house and the Royers were interested buyers, the man used the farm as a selling point. Not knowing who he was talking to, the man showed the open fields by his house and said it was farmed by a little old lady who probably would never sell it for development. Everyone got a good laugh when the Royers identified themselves as the farmers in the lane.

Living with urban neighbors takes some creativity. And it's not always easy. A group of kids in the neighborhood built forts in the Royer's corn field, but eventually their antics became known. Lynn called some of the parents and complained. The parents asked what they owed for the damage.

Instead of asking for money, Lynn scheduled a Saturday gleaning day when all the kids involved were required to help in the fields. By the end of the day, everyone was very tired, but they had learned a lesson about the hard work of farming. And the group of kids made sure the two missing members of the fort-building gang took their turn at gleaning corn fields the next Saturday.

Forts in the corn field were never again a problem. The kids learned a lesson, the parents were impressed with the way the Royers handled the situation, and neighbor relations improved.

"The whole thing is that you can't get them mad at you," Rhelda said. "Many farmers think they will discipline their neighbors, and they get the neighbors against them. One farmer we know spread chicken manure in the woods where the kids played. He also threw rocks into a neighbor's lawn because the neighbor had put junk in his fields. But that just got worse. The farmer should have talked to them.

"We don't have fences between us and the development. If you have a fence, the neighbors can throw things over it out of sight. But if you don't have a fence, they too must look at the junk they throw in your field.

"Our neighbors know we haul manure in the spring and fall, and we drill or disk it in right away so there is no big deal. We don't haul manure on Saturday if it is possible to haul it some other day. We just don't agitate them, and they seem to appreciate that. They all kind of watch out for us now; we call them our border patrol."

A new neighbor moved into the development and when he changed the oil in his cars, he dumped the spent oil in Royer's field. Not only did Lynn ask the neighbor not to put oil in the field, he gave him a plastic three-gallon jug and said he would haul it away when it was filled. The oil dumping in the field

stopped.

The Royers also offer to help the neighbors with little things like snow plowing or pulling trees with

the tractor. Neighbors sometimes borrow tools. One neighbor asked Lynn to use an ax. At the time, the ax had been burned in a brush-pile

by mistake. So Lynn bought a new ax and took it to the neighbor and asked the the neighbor to keep it
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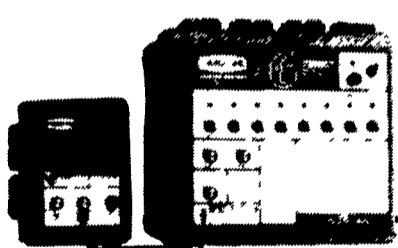
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