

Cumberland County To Hold Pageant

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

Joyce Bupp



Beware. The enemy lurks all about.

The enemy hides behind the bushes. Waits in hedges and fencerows. Bides its time in underground foxholes. Spies from high in the treetops.

The enemy strikes during dark of night and broad daylight. It employs guerilla tactics and marches openly in lined battalions. In hand-to-hand battle, it bites, it scratches, it jabs with razor-sharp weaponry.

This is warfare. Break out the bombs. Break out the cannons. And the flyswatter and the ladybugs and the lime and the netting.

It's the pest-inside season — and the pest-outside season. From all directions, bugs descend in swarms, weeds overrun field and garden. Even the birds and bees bear watching.

Opening squirmish of pest-inside season was with the ants. Idy-biddy, teeny-tiny, near-microscopic-sized ants that turned up on the kitchen floor. Our annual ant invasion usually coincides with the first warm week. That's those giant ants, which work in teams to cart off loaves of bread and even the cat if she doesn't move fast enough. They showed up right on time. Swarms of teeny-tinys were

an extra added attraction this year.

Scatterings of anti-ant powder have discouraged the intruders, save for some diehards lusting after the jelly jar.

An explosion of pent-up flies is released the moment the barn thermometer hits 80 degrees. So, just as we dig out the cut-offs and T-shirts for barn chores, the flies send out search parties seeking soft places on cows to bite. Finding few, they reroute their mission to humans not swathed in rugged cowhide. Mother Nature's chilly nights have been a most supportive ally in this year's fly wars.

Spreading greenery into the pest battlefield scenery are perennial favorites like poison ivy, bindweed (we call it wild sweet potato), dock and that most indestructible of all indestructibles, Johnsongrass.

The mass of weaponry enlisted to control chaos in the veggie and perennial patches would pale under Pentagon scrutiny. A sharp kitchen knife is for digging down into tough root masses. One of nature's most toxic substances is then poured into the open wound - salt. Iodized, but it probably doesn't matter.

Yes, we even resort to chemical warfare, enlisting a weed/grass

CARLISLE (Cumberland Co.) — Cumberland County Dairy Princess Pageant will be held at Embers Convention Center, 1800 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle, on June 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Two contestants will compete for the Cumberland County Dairy Princess crown. Laura Deitch, 1668 W. Lisburn Rd., Mechanics-

burg, is the daughter of Chester Sr. and Kathy Deitch. Laura is a junior at Cumberland Valley High School.

The other contestant is Diane Myers, 518 Forge Rd., Boiling Springs, daughter of Richard and Ethel Myers. She is a senior at

Boiling Springs Junior-Senior High School.

Lisa Deitch, daughter of Chester Sr. and Kathy Deitch, will be appointed junior representative, in order to assist in county dairy promotion.



Laura Deitch



Diane Myers

killer for those unpullable, weedy invasions that refuse to be salted to death. For legged pests, nicotine spray is effective and cheap. Soak a couple of cigarette butts in water, add a drop or two of dishwashing liquid for stickiness and apply to those creepy-crawlies bugging your garden. Do not inhale.

Lime remains my favorite — also cheap and safe — anti-pest dust. Good for sprinkling in nooks and crannies where flies lay eggs and for eliminating a host of veggie chews. A plastic container with a lid punched full of holes makes for mess-free dusting. Could cause sneezing if the wind is right.

Then there's the robins, convinced that the strawberry patch has been planted for their exclusive enjoyment. We would never purposely destroy a robin — even over strawberries. But plastic netting we use for wrapping those large, round hay bales deters even the boldest berry-loving bird when its draped over the patch.

However, this pest-inside, pest-outside battle is not fought without casualties. While feeding my favorite rosebush a boost of nutrients and pest guard, my hand slipped off the garden trowel and smacked into a half-inch-long, razor-tipped thorn. The resulting muscle soreness and swelling of that hand has finally disappeared.

Just in time to scratch the poison ivy swelling on the other.

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