

# On being a farm wife - And other hazards Joyce Bupp



"It's the weekend!" says the perky voice coming from an area radio station.

"No alarms! No hassles! No bosses!" continues the upbeat, excited disc jockey.

I glance around the dairy barn. A hundred cows are waiting to enter their stall for evening milking on this particular late June Friday. From the calf nursery comes the sound of a dozen calves already impatiently bawling for their evening bottle feedings.

Forty acres of grass hay lay drying under the baking sun and 93-degree heat. The Farmer and crew are busy baling and stacking heavy bales in the hay mow of a humid barn. Their day will stretch even longer than ours in the barn as they toil feverishly to put away the last of first-cutting grass hay.

And then The Farmer will return, at dusk, with several trips left around the barn to feed the cows, attend to any health needs we may find during milking and perhaps artificially inseminate a cow or two before the long day ends.

Tomorrow — Saturday — will be a repeat. Sunday, even without

field work, all the dairy chores still need done. So the announcer's weekend celebratory pronouncement strikes me as hilarious. In the middle of the barn surrounded by "bosses" I'm directing to stalls, I laugh out loud.

After nearly three decades at this profession of farm wifery, experience tells me that Murphy's law applies more intensely to weekends than any other period of time. Anything disruptive will, by large probability of fate, happen on the weekend.

When you can't get repairmen, can't get parts, can't get anything shipped, employees are more likely to be off — it will break down, bust up, shut off, die, get a calf stuck midway through delivery, break a leg, or develop a twisted stomach and need emergency surgery. Nearly every time the power has gone down in recent years, it's been a weekend.

We have a standing joke around the farm about the silo/feeder drag chain mechanism. If it's broke, it must be Sunday morning. That chain has surely broken on as many weekdays as it has on Sundays, but somehow they stand out

in memory far more clearly. Regardless of when, if the cows are to eat, which they loudly demand, it must be fixed.

Also, it seems about 40 percent of our baby calves arrive at the calf barn so that their first bottle needs to be given on a Sunday morning. And giving that first bottle manually often proves to be an adventure in which I get butted, slobbered upon, knocked into a corner (I once flew right out with a gate when a calf took offense to my presence). I did make a resolution sometime ago to stop grumbling about Sunday morning first-feedings and instead count the blessing of a healthy calf.

A few Saturday evenings ago, a fellow dairy producer called asking if we knew of any used bulk milk tanks available for sale. His, while operating for-the-half at that moment, was failing to the point where it could cease to continue cooling milk at any given second. On a weekend, naturally.

Even more enticing to trouble than plain, ordinary weekends are holiday weekends, such as this one. Vividly impressed in my memory is a Labor Day weekend a few years back when we had everything lined up to fill silo. The weather was ideal, we had adequate manpower — and the forage harvester broke down. Late on a Friday afternoon.

Parts had to come from a source in the mid-West. But neither the postal service nor the private delivery services were operating until the following Tuesday.

We do enjoy the special things planned for weekends and try to set aside at least an hour or two to relax — even if it's just sitting by the pond at dusk on Sunday evening.

Last Friday night, The Farmer

collapsed on the couch with a snack — just in time for the late night news. Hay had kept him in the field again until dark. Then, after several feeding trips around the barn, he'd spent nearly an hour wrestling a huge bull calf from the heifer mother struggling to give birth.

"It's the weekend!" gleefully announced our favorite television weatherman on the late night news.

"Yeah," agreed The Farmer, with a tired grin. "It's the weekend — maybe we can get done at nine instead of eleven."

## Perry County Chooses Dairy Princess



A new Dairy Princess was crowned for Perry County on June 8. Marel Raub, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Raub of Duncannon, will be promoting the dairy industry over the next year, and will represent Perry County at the State Pageant in September. Emily Dum, right, Dairy Ambassador, and Abby Dum, Little Dairy Miss, will be assisting Marel at local promotions. Anyone wishing to have Marel speak at a function, please contact Brenda Hollister at (814) 834-4578 (day) or (814) 834-3298 (eve).

# UNCLAIMED FREIGHT CO. AND LIQUIDATION SALES INC.

CLIP THIS VALUABLE COUPON!

### NATIONAL RECLINER

Must have coupon for this special price!

OUR CASH PRICE \$129.95

WITH COUPON ~~\$98.88~~ **\$69.00**

Reg. Ret. \$389.95



(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

CLIP THIS VALUABLE COUPON!

Spectacular offer!

### SWIVEL ROCKERS

It's a refusal by the largest chain store in the country. Tags are still on the chairs. One color.

Reg. Ret. \$399.95 OUR CASH PRICE \$249.95 WITH COUPON **\$109.04**



CLIP THIS VALUABLE COUPON!

### 2 PIECE LIVING ROOM

Contemporary sofa and loveseat in gorgeous selection of prints.

OUR CASH PRICE \$569.95

WITH COUPON **\$499.95**



Reg. Ret. \$1629.95

(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

CLIP THIS VALUABLE COUPON!

### CONTEMPORARY SET

Sofa and loveseat

Reg. Ret. \$1429.95 OUR CASH PRICE \$569.95

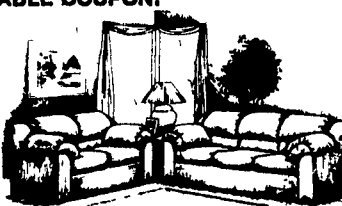
WITH COUPON **\$499.95**

QUEEN SLEEPER AND LOVESEAT

Reg. Ret. \$1669.95

OUR CASH PRICE \$639.95 WITH COUPON **\$569.95**

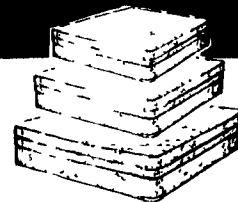
QUEEN SLEEPER WITH COUPON **\$349.95**



## BEDDING BLOW-OUT

No one can beat our prices! All prices are for **BOTH PIECES**.

The only reason the competition doesn't tell the truth in their ads is because they can't match our prices. Our ad has no asterisks. No footnotes. This is the deal.



### BASSETT MATTRESS & BOX SPRING

FREE Polaroid Camera with purchase

Look at the value...plus a bonus of \$59 Polaroid. This is top of the line bedding, and one of the best deals that we ever made! These are all everruns, cancellations and close-out fabrics. This is one heck of a price on bedding, complete with a warranty of one full year replacement at no charge.

Reg. Ret. OUR CASH PRICE SPECIAL PRICE

Single..... \$589.95 ..... \$259.95 ..... **\$119.95**

Double .... \$729.95 ..... \$309.95 ..... **\$149.95**

Queen .... \$859.95 ..... \$399.95 ..... **\$199.95**

King..... \$1099.95 ..... \$519.95 ..... **\$259.95**

### SERTA MATTRESS & BOX SPRING

FREE Polaroid Camera with purchase We Have The New 1993 Covers.

Single...Reg. Ret. \$609.95 ..... OUR CASH PRICE **\$129.95**

Double...Reg. Ret. \$749.95 ..... OUR CASH PRICE **\$169.95**

Queen...Reg. Ret. \$889.95 ..... OUR CASH PRICE **\$199.95**

### DELCO MATTRESS & FOUNDATION

BEST DEAL GOING!

Single...Reg. Ret. \$189.95 ..... OUR CASH PRICE **\$79.88**

Double...Reg. Ret. \$289.95 ..... OUR CASH PRICE **\$99.88**

Queen...Reg. Ret. \$529.95 ..... OUR CASH PRICE **\$119.88**

King...Reg. Ret. \$609.95 ..... OUR CASH PRICE **\$209.88**

Unbelievable Price On A King Set! **★ SPECIAL! \$189.88**

Best prices anywhere on other brand names, too. We also have the lowest prices on crib mattresses.

Remember... there's no such thing as FREE DELIVERY.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

We are a four store chain not affiliated with any other stores.

**LANCASTER**  
3019 Hempland Road  
717-397-8241

**YORK**  
4585 West Market Street  
717-792-3502

**CHAMBERSBURG**  
1525 Lincoln Way East  
717-261-0131

**CARLISLE**  
1880 Harrisburg Pike  
717-249-5718



### STORE HOURS:

Monday Thru Friday 9-9  
Saturday 9-6 (Lancaster & York)  
9-5 (Carlisle & Chambersburg)  
Sunday Noon-5 (Lancaster & York)  
Closed Sunday (Carlisle & Chambersburg)



No Refunds. No Exchanges. Cash & Carry FINANCING AVAILABLE  
No Out-Of-State Checks Accepted  
Out-Of-State Credit Cards Accepted  
For purchase with a check, bring proper ID and a major credit card.  
Not responsible for typographical errors

## HUNDREDS OF OTHER ITEMS!

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

All our furniture is brand new merchandise. Not used. Not traded in.

Quality furniture and a whole lot more ... for a whole lot less.