

Joyce Bupp Named Dairy Woman Of The Year

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 umns portray. From 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Joyce attacks a whirlwind of duties, from milking, feeding calves, gardening, and pulling weeds in her profuse flower beds surrounding their York County farm.

The Bupps milk 200 registered cows, raise their own replacements, and farm about 800 acres, of which 240 are owned by them.

While Leroy handles the mating and breeding, Joyce is in charge of calf feeding, naming, intermediate heifer raising, and registration. She also assists the vet in reproductive exams, maintains books, and records for the farm operation and milks seven days a week.

Well, almost seven days a week. Several days a month she flies all over the country as an educator and speaker for ag concerns, and she attends meetings as board member of Dairymen, Inc., and vice president of the Middle Atlantic Division Board of Dairymen Inc. She holds the distinction of being the first and only woman serving on the Dairymen corporate board.

Leroy, the veteran dairy farmer, is often introduced as "Mr. Joyce Bupp." His good-natured smile confirms that he is not intimidated, but quite proud of his wife, and has earned his wife's assessment that "he is wonderfully supportive of all I do."

He believes in the adage that non-farm women make better farmers because they don't know what they are getting into and don't have any bad habits to unlearn.

Perhaps Joyce did not have any bad habits to unlearn, but she did have a preview of what farm life would be like during their dating years. On one date, the couple

needed to skip a New Year's Eve party to deliver a litter of piglets. And, during their courtship, she knew that Leroy rarely had time to eat and sleep properly as he rushed between chores on his family's farm and on the one he purchased while only a high school senior, and then squeezed in a few hours to date her.

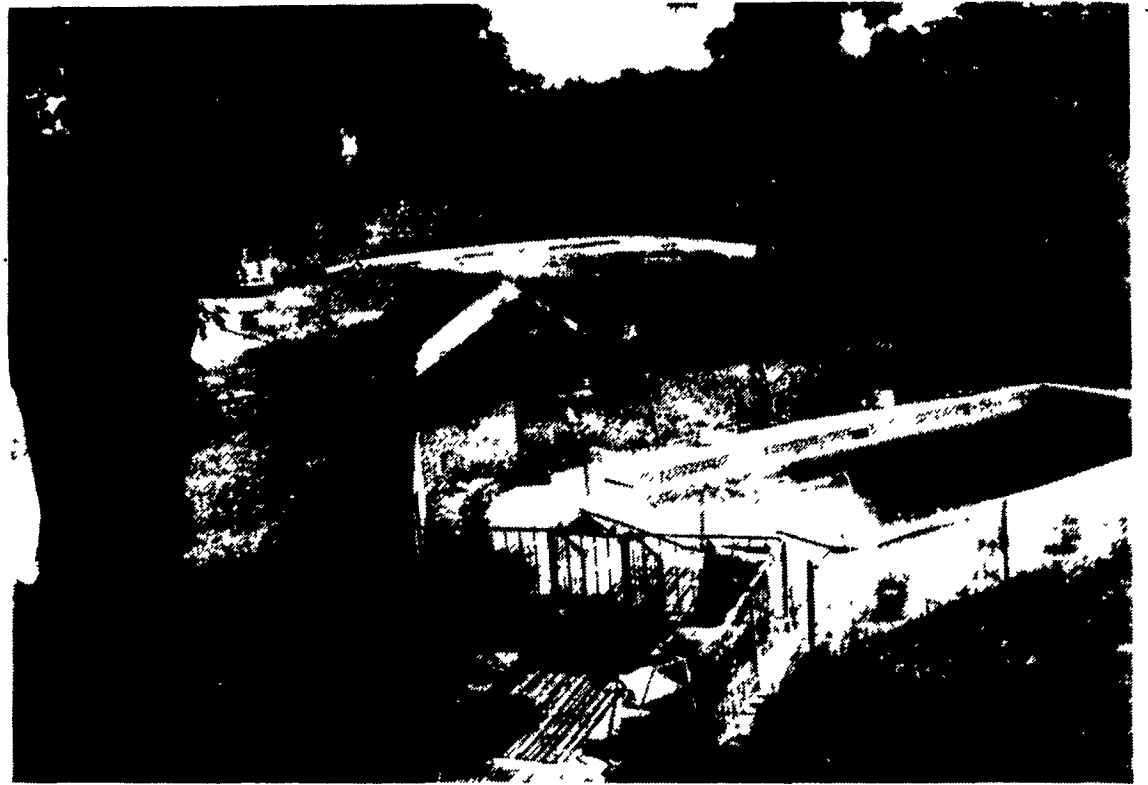
The couple decided time could be gained by getting married so they pushed up their wedding date and married about seven months after high school graduation. Joyce maintained her office job for two years after their marriage, but when an aunt needed to come to help Leroy with farm chores one day, Joyce decided it was time to make the farm her career.

Joyce loves the cows, the cow shows, and the fieldwork. Having babies barely slowed down Joyce's busy lifestyle, because she fed calves right up until the time she went to deliver her babies and quickly resumed her chores soon after.

Daughter Patricia is 24 years old, married, and a college professor in Oregon. Son Richard, now 21, is a student at Penn State University.

While the children were growing up, their parents became 4-H leaders, corted the children to shows, games, and activities. As the 4-H dairy bowl coach, Joyce saw her team win the state title and go on to place third in the nation. Leroy was dairy club leader and still helps out occasionally.

In 1976, Joyce said that she "fell into writing." That was the year that the American Farm Bureau sponsored an essay contest for the bicentennial celebration. Joyce entered — her first written piece ever — and won a trip to Hawaii.



The view from the Bupps' back porch overlooks the patio, pool, ponds, and meadow.

Not long after that, Joyce was asked to be a correspondent for *Lancaster Farming*. Several months later, she began her weekly column, which was then picked up by the "York Dispatch" newspaper. She also has had numerous articles and features published by *Lancaster Farming*, *Holstein World*, and *Hoard's Dairyman*.

She has never taken a writing course or had any journalistic training.

Joyce estimates that she has written 1,000 columns and has never used the same one twice. While she may occasionally have a bout with writers' block, she said of the weekly deadline, "Something always pops up. All farm wives have the same kind of things happening to them — those normal, routine, crazy, frustrating things that happen on the farm."

Though it may be normal, everyday things, it's Joyce's humor and perspective in recounting them make her column extremely popular. As one reader put it — the column makes everyone feel like Joyce is their next-door neighbor even if they've never met.

As a speaker and educator for agriculture, Joyce also excels. She speaks to many groups such as Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, Maryland Farm Bureau, National Institute Of Cooperatives, and the Maryland Institute of Cooperatives.

It was easier for Joyce to attend

off-farm events several years ago than it is now because the children could assume her chores. Now that the children are grown up and away from the home, the Bupps try to keep labor costs down, which means that Joyce declines many invitations to speak.

"Farming duties are my number one priority," she said.

Bupplynn Dairy Farms' best known cow is Beshore Rotate Bupplynn Jody, one of the most sought-after flush cows in the Holstein Breed. The farm consistently breeds a large amount of Very Good and several Excellent cows. It is known for its stylish uddered Holstein bloodlines. The Bupps have exhibited and sold at local, state, and national shows and sales in addition to exporting several to foreign countries.

The Bupp's barn is one-of-a-kind, according to Joyce. It was designed for show animals when they were in their heyday years of showing. It's a herringbone-stall barn with raised stalls about 11-inches above alley and angled for easy access for milking. Although the stall barn requires more labor than a milking parlor, the advantage is that it allows better cow care. The cows are tamer because of the personal contact of needing to tie and let them loose each day.

The Bupps put a lot of stock in breeding for cow temperament. They do not tolerate wild cows.

Since both Leroy and Joyce love dairy shows, it is especially painful to cut down on them, but the costs of hiring labor while showing is

not cost effective.

They do continue county shows and are pleased with the premier breeder and exhibitor awards garnered there.

Joyce is also a township auditor, Sunday School teacher at Hometown Lutheran Church, and book reviewer for Christian Herald Book Club.

She is already at work as the chairperson of the booklet committee for the 1995 National Holstein Association Convention, to be held in Pittsburgh.

For all who read Joyce's column, they know that she may lament the government's paper overload, rising costs, poor pay, and low prices, but she always ends up with a positive upbeat message.

"How can I do otherwise?" she said. "I love my job. It may not pay the best, but I look at my blessings."

Many years ago, Joyce's mother told her: "At least if you are marrying a farmer, you'll never go hungry."

And, she has had plenty to eat regardless of drought or wet seasons.

Recently, the Bupps lost three of their best cows from the heat, and the rain has been sparse. But Joyce said, "I don't worry as much as I used to about weather and other things that I can't control, because with faith everything always works out."

She said that we have a choice to work with what we have and to

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Experimenting with greenhouse plant is therapy for Joyce.



Joyce gathers some gladiolus, which bloom profusely despite little rain.



Dairy Woman of the Year Joyce Bupp co-manages a 420-head registered Holstein dairy farm, is a prolific writer and speaker for agriculture concerns, and a board member for Dairymen, Inc., and the Middle Atlantic Division's board of directors.