

By Farm Brides



Because Jaylene and John are both from farm families and will continue with agricultural careers, they wanted their wedding to reflect their love for farm life.

Wedding With A Country Flair

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BELLEVILLE (Mifflin Co.) — May 28 started out like any other day on the farm for Jaylene Yoder. About 5 a.m., she went to the barn and pulled a calf.

But at 11 a.m., she was dressed in her satiny best and stood before the church altar to exchange vows with John Hess, a farmer from Gettysburg.

The couple had met at Penn State, where both were pursuing agriculture degrees. When planning their wedding, it seem appropriate to give it their own personal stamp of individuality — their love for country living. The setting, attire, food, and entertainment expressed the couple's affinity for country.

The groom, best man, and ushers wore jeans and cowboy boots with a bolo tie and tuxedo jacket, which they shed at the reception and donned cowboy hats.

The bridesmaids wore floral print dresses and flowers in their hair. The matron of honor worn the same style dress as the bridesmaids but was distinguishable with a straw hat decorated with wildflowers.

"For the bridesmaids, I chose

dresses that could be worn for other occasions because I have seven expensive gowns from being a bridesmaid in other weddings that I will never wear again," Jaylene said.

The bride herself chose a stylish white satin mermaid gown. She did her hair in an upswept style and wore a fashionable hat with an detachable veil.

After the ceremony that was held at Locust Grove Mennonite Church, the bridal party climbed into a manure spreader — a new one — to go to the Yoders' farm for the reception. About one mile from the farm, the couple switched modes of transportation and climbed into an Amish white top buggy for a carriage ride down the farm lane.

A large tent was erected on the farm to hold about 300 guests.

It's not surprising that Jaylene, a former Mifflin County dairy princess, promoted the dairy industry at her wedding. An ice cream punch and a soup appetizer was served. The bean soup was cooked in a large cast iron kettle.

Ham, beef, and chicken was made over an open pit barbecue.

Guests could help themselves to the ice cream sundae bar. The wedding cake was decorated with las-



The bridal party left the church in a manure spreader — a new one fortunately.



A large tent was erected on the farm for eating and country dancing. The wedding attire of the bridal party reflected the country theme with the guys wearing blue jeans, bolo ties, cowboy hats and boots; the bridesmaids wore floral print dresses — chosen for the versatility of wearing them for other occasions.

ses, cowboy hats, and flowers.

Table centerpieces were wildflowers, which the bride and her family picked. Additional wildflowers were purchased.

Preference was given to guests who were dairy farmers.

The announcement was made: "Farmers get to eat first."

This announcement stemmed from the experience of knowing how difficult it was to finish eating in time for farmers to return home to begin evening chores.

Following the meal, tables and chairs were folded up and the bridal part led guests in country dancing on the wooden platform floor.

It did not take long, for the father of the bride, J. Loren Yoder, to shed his suit for a T-shirt with the message: Dairy farmers are udderly remarkable.

With balloons streaming behind them, children ran through the fields. Some guests relaxed on rocking chairs on the porch or

relaxed on swings underneath the large trees.

The Yoders said that they incorporated as much help as possible from friends and family members.

A former exchange student from Germany and his wife arrived a day early to arrange a rope of fresh pine and flowers to surround the doorway and to arrange the wildflowers.

Guests were from Norway, Germany, Canada, and numerous states.

After a wedding trip to the Pocosinos, the couple will live on the Hess family farm, where John will help his parents, John and Bonnie Hess, farm about 1,200 acres and milk 240 Holsteins. Jaylene is employed as a scout technician for Agway.

Jaylene, the 1988-1989 Mifflin County Dairy Princess, is the daughter of J. Loren and Wanda Yoder, who farm 125 acres in Belleville and milk 60 cows.



The nice thing about having a wedding on the farm is the ability for the bride's father to dress in his favorite attire — blue jeans and a T-shirt with the message: Dairy farmers are udderly remarkable.



An Amish neighbor allowed Jaylene Yoder and John Hess to borrow his white top buggy to drive down the farm lane where the reception was held on the Yoder's farm.

Homestead Notes