

# You Ask ? ? ? ? ? ? You Answer

In response to readers' questions, this column is for readers who have questions but don't know who to ask for the answers. In the past, many readers sent non-cooking requests to Cook's Question Corner, a cooking column on page B 8.

"You Ask — You Answer" is for non-cooking questions. The concept is the same: When a reader sends in a question, it will be printed in the paper. Readers who know the answer are asked to respond by mailing the answer, which will then be printed in the paper.

Questions and answers to this column should be addressed to You Ask — You Answer, Lou Ann Good, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522.

**QUESTION** — A. Nolt of New Holland would like to know the words to the complete poem that was recited in the 1920s when her father-in-law went to school. The poem contains these lines: The carpenter's house is falling down. The preacher's kids are the worse in town.... Since this request appeared, Theresa Litecky, Eastampton, N.J., and several others have written to say they remember parts of this poem and can hardly wait to see the complete poem. Any readers who remember the complete poem, please send it immediately.

**QUESTION** — Romaine B. Answell, Sumerdale, would like to know who manufactured the Webalco electric skillet.

**QUESTION** — Charles E. Wright, Duncannon, purchased a 13-inch parlor stove made of iron with the following marks: On the front spark inside is written Gray Iron Casting Co., Mt. Joy, Pa. On the inside top door 75-11; on the poker 7517. The doors, drafts, etc., would like a full-sized stove. Is this company still in business?

**QUESTION** — A reader from Thorton writes that families of Canadian geese have taken residence in their pond. How can the geese be encouraged to leave the pond?

**QUESTION** — Barb Gayman would like more explicit instructions for a question she had asked previously. She asked what to do about food sticking to the plastic trays of her food dehydrator. A reader suggested that she line the trays with waxed paper. Barb did and the paper stuck so tight, it was not possible to remove it and resulted in unedible fruit. Another reader suggested she use rancid spray, but she is concerned that it will get rancid. Any other suggestions?

**QUESTION** — A reader would like to know if someone has a grain scale that can be bought to weigh saffron or gunpowder.

## Chicken History Has Feminine Mystique

GEORGETOWN, Del. — Today's commercial poultry industry can be viewed as an equal-opportunity enterprise, with both men and women involved at most levels of production, processing, marketing, and management.

But in grandmother's day and many centuries beyond, when chickens and eggs were raised initially for home consumption, poultry production was viewed primarily as a job for women and children. So it's not surprising that a feminine mystique pervades the

history and lore of chickens, both worldwide and on the Delmarva Peninsula.

People knowledgeable about Delmarva agricultural lore are aware that one woman, the late Mrs. Wilmer Steele of Ocean View, Del., is credited with founding the commercial broiler industry that began in Delaware and spread throughout the nation. Visitors to the Delaware Agricultural Museum in Dover on June 18 had the opportunity to watch a professional actress portray Steele

working in her original chicken house, which is now located in the museum.

The re-enactment was associated with the Delmarva Chicken Festival, at its 46th annual run June 17-18 at nearby Delaware State University. The festival was sponsored by Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., the trade association for the area's nearly \$1.3 billion-a-year broiler industry.

Also on display were Delaware Blue Hen Chickens, official state bird of the First State for the past 55 years. Actually, the legend of the Blue Hen Chicken dates back nearly 220 years, when soldiers of the Delaware Regiment established their reputation as Delaware Blue Hen "fighting gamecocks."

Whether they actually carried Blue Hen Chickens with them on the battlefield is a controversial issue among historians. Knowledgeable chicken fanciers will tell you that it is the hen who passes on fighting traits to her male offspring in the world of gamebirds. So, back in the days when cockfighting was legal, a hen with champion male offspring was a valuable commodity.

The poultry industry exhibit, coordinated and manned by poultry personnel from the University of Delaware and University of Maryland, also included two movies depicting the history of Delmarva's poultry industry. One showed highlights of the first National Chicken Cooking Contest held in 1949 in Salisbury, Md. and the other, "Chicken Goes to War," traced the early days of the local poultry industry.

A scaled-version model showed visitors some of the new technology in today's modern chicken houses and compared production practices with practices of past years.

**QUESTION** — Walter Hertzog, King of Prussia, asks who to get rid of bamboo in his yard that is running shoots everywhere. He also asks where to purchase clump bamboo that doesn't run.

**QUESTION** — Mary Sasscer, Upper Mailboro, Md., would like to know where to purchase a used treadle scroll saw for use in demonstrating at craft shows.

**QUESTION** — Anna Newswanger, 185 S. Pool Forge Rd., Narvon, PA 17555, would like to purchase the book "Ada and the Wild Duck," by Edith Brecht. Please state price when answering.

**QUESTION** — D. Newsom, Cooperstown, N.Y., would like to know where to find kegs for Saint Bernards to wear around their necks. He needs to real kegs, not miniature knick knacks, that live Saint Bernards wear.

**QUESTION** — D. Newsom, Cooperstown, N.Y., would like to buy an Aladdin Lamp that is either electric or oil or kerosene, but not the Aladdin mantle type. He wants the shape, the kind rubbed for a wish in the story of the Magic Lamp.

**QUESTION** — D. Newsom, R. 2, Box 530 Copperstown, N.Y. 13326-9606, would like to purchase soft fake fur or plush large pies in 6 to 8 yard lengths. Can be new or used. Send source and price.

**QUESTION** — A subscriber from Lehighon would like to know where to purchase plastic lids for soft plastic quart containers for freezing produce. If lids cannot be purchased separately, where can she purchase wholesale a case of plastic quart containers.

**ANSWER** — A reader wanted to know where to send for a catalog featuring vinyl doll heads, arms, and legs. She wants to make her own dolls. Thanks to Alta Sensenig, Newville, who suggests Bolek's Craft Supply, 330 N. Tuscarawas Avenue, P.O. Box 465, Dover, Ohio, 44622-0465. Anna Newswanger, Narvon, suggests CR's Crafts, Box 8, Leland, IA 50453.

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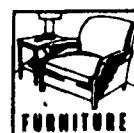
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