

On being a farm wife - And other hazards Joyce Bupp



Earlier this year, I made a vow. If we just received regular rains through the summer season to grow crops, I solemnly promised myself to refrain from complaints about heat, humidity or a mildew-scented house. This personal stance rises from lingering memories of numerous back-to-back years of drought.

So over the last few weeks, when tempted to moan over hay rotting in the fields under gray, leaden skies, I run that promise back through my head as a refresher.

And follow up with a look-around outside.

Cornfields around the neighborhood are thick, tall, and hanging heavy with ears filled with yellowing kernels. Fields of soybeans are equally impressive, lush seas of deep-green leaves shading clusters of pods in which round beans are fattening.

Even while farmers try to cut, dry and harvest third-cutting of alfalfa, muggy days and cool, damp nights have quickly pushed fourth-cutting. Given a little weather cooperation, a good fifth-cutting is a possibility for many farmers we know.

Cattle should eat well this win-

ter. And people, too, though it's doubtful the price of cornflakes will plunge anywhere near the nose-dive that corn grain prices have already made.

Interesting, even amusing, are the creative ways in which Mother Nature's greenery responds to these lush August growing conditions. Stuff grows where you'd never imagine it might.

Like grass. On the lawn. In parts of the garden. Up through teeny cracks in the blacktop drive and along the edges of barn walls. And sprouting in the rain gutters. It's hard to mow grass growing in a rain gutter.

Gutters on the lower side of our farmhouse run along the back-porch roof, right over the concrete basement porch two stories below. Neither of us is ever anxious to clumb a ladder above the concrete porch apron to clean out those high-rise rain gutters. Thus rain gutter cleanout gets pushed aside in the crush of the hectic summertime field and herd chores.

So when a couple of grass seeds, probably dropped by house sparrows, found their way into the rain gutter, they took root. And continuing August moisture has encouraged their growth. It gives

Open Youth Schooling Horse Show Offered

The Northampton County 4-H Center is offering an Open Youth Schooling Horse Show on Sunday, October 2, 1994, starting at 10 a.m. This will be held in conjunction with the open house being held at the 4-H Center. The 4-H Center is located 2.2 miles south of Rt. 512 and 4 miles north of Nazareth on Bushkill Center Rd.

the porch a sporty, Mohawk-hair-cut look.

Morning glory seeds tossed there would provide a much more attractive growth. They could cascade and vine down over the back porch posts, sort of like our own Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Instead, the morning glory vines, annual returning remnants of a single stalk planted ten years or so ago, have crawled merrily out of what was supposed to be the strawberry patch. The vines now form a thick latticework of leaves over the adjoining fence, despite the fact that I have twice treated the area with a contact weedkiller.

For every sprayed morning glory vine that shrivels up, two replacements pop up to fill the gaps. At least their pretty, blue flowers provide a redeeming beauty.

Which is more than can be said for the annual invasion of the ragweed monsters.

Continuing yearly battles with these "trees" have greatly reduced their numbers in the flower beds. However, those remaining shoot to six feet overnight, with hard, inch-thick stems. I always want to yell "Timber!" when lopping off these overgrown pests with the tree-limb-lopper.

And fenceline growth of Mile-A-Minute is so thick and thorny the heifers seem content to stay in the pasture where they belong, rather than fight the tangle.

See. Everything has a bright side. Even weeds.

This schooling show is open to youths between the ages of 8 and 19 years of age. It is offered as a learning experience and will be held in an informal atmosphere. There is no formal dress code for this event, although hard hats, where necessary, and riding boots are required. All horses being exhibited must produce a proof of rabies vaccination.

Classes offered include Walk-Trot, Walk-Trot-Canter, Trail, Jumping, and Fun classes. The fees are \$3/class or \$20 for the day. Ribbons will be awarded in each class. All participants must supply

their own mount. For more information or directions to this event, please call Janice Martin at (610) 837-7294.

The 4-H program in Northampton County is open to all youths between the ages of 8 and 19 years of age. Projects include almost everything you might want, plus opportunities to learn leadership skills and interact with youths from around the county, region, state, nation, and world. If you would like more information concerning the 4-H program, please call the Northampton County 4-H Offices, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at (610) 746-1970.

How To Describe People With Disabilities

Expressing yourself thoughtfully may have a long history, but it is only fairly recently being applied to people with disabilities.

THEN: For centuries, people with disabilities have been subjected to stereotyping and dehumanization through the language used to describe them. While some progress has been made in this century to shed labels such as "crippled," "feeble-minded," "deaf and dumb," etc., it is still, unfortunately, the case that people with a disability are seen as a disability first and as a person second. It is this type of stereotyping which reinforces the continued isolation and segregation of people with disabilities, even four years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

NOW: It should be remembered that in enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act, Congress consciously chose to refer to people with disabilities as "Americans" first and "disabled" second. Disability, particularly in a country in which there is an Americans with Disabilities Act, need not be a life definition. As we approach the fourth anniversary of this historic Act's enactment, let's remember to "put people first."


We can say... person with a disability, *instead of* the disabled, the handicapped.

We can say... person with cerebral palsy *instead of* cerebral palsy victim.

We can say... people with multiple sclerosis, *instead of* those afflicted with multiple sclerosis.

We can say... person who uses a wheelchair *instead of* a wheelchair-bound patient.


When we begin to act on this language in a manner that truly sees people as people first, we'll be a long way toward fulfilling the promises of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Happy Anniversary!



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