

# The Farmer's Decoy

DOVER, Del. — The Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village is proud to display its new exhibit, *The Farmer's Decoy*. This special month-long exhibit will feature working decoys, decorative decoys, items relating to the hunt such as rifles and advertisements, and photographs picturing scenes related to waterfowl hunting and decoy carving.

Items on display date before 1950 and include artifacts from the Museum's collection as well

as items on loan from private collectors. *The Farmer's Decoy* opened May 1 and runs through May 31.

The Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village, a private, non-profit organization, is located just south of Delaware State University on Rt. 13 in Dover. Admission is charged. Information on this exhibit and other events at the Museum is available by calling (302) 734-1618.

# Cows And Caring

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"You'd think environmentalists would be working with the farmers. Instead they are making so many regulations that don't make sense at all."

Joe said that he previously used a pesticide on his corn that is no longer allowed but is allowed to be sprayed three times stronger on alfalfa than what he had used on corn. The reason it is not allowed on corn is because it isn't printed on the label. The company said that it costs too much to go through all the hassle and expense of incorporating it on the label. Now it costs the Lusby's three times as much money to purchase an approved pesticide.

"It doesn't make sense that it can be used on one crop and not on

another. It all goes to cow feed," Joe said.

"Government restrictions are putting us (farmers) out of business."

The family laments the plight of many family farms.

Sandy said, "Sometimes we wonder whether or not we should sell building rights to keep the farm in agriculture. But then, we fear that it would give the government more control over farming."

The Lusby's try not to let government restrictions infringe on farming's enjoyment.

Sandy said, "Sometimes I get tired at the end of the day, but I still think the dairy farm is a good place to raise children — they are never out of a job."

And neither are the parents.

him. Large dog. Large white dog with long, shaggy hair. A hundred-pound Great Pyrenees named Chessie.

Make that a large white — and black — dog. Chessie takes shortcuts on her walks around the farm through a belly-deep corner of the manure pit. Then she scratches at the door to come in the house, to nap in front of the kitchen sink.

Chessie's been nicknamed The Manure Queen. Or, the Great White Tomato Stomper, another honor she earned while keeping me company in the garden. Fortunately the tomato stems are still young, flexible and bounce back up after being flattened by dog paws.

This newcomer has also left Solomon, our Sheltie, and Monk the housecat with their own identity crises. They're not sure who the king pet on the farm is anymore, though each of the three squabbles with the others at various times trying to claim the title.

My identity crisis really hit home the afternoon I stood at the wash line, trying to identify who owned the half-dozen-plus pairs of jeans dry and ready for folding. The Farmer's and mine are two obviously different sizes. Now we have added entries in a size between the two; it requires paying attention to get them all sorted on the right piles.

Same with the colored cotton tee-shirts they both favor for work during nice weather. Also sweat-shirts, quilted flannel shirts, and socks. We may have to resort to color coding.

Think I'll stock up on pink stuff.

**On Being a Farm Wife**  
(and other hazards)  
**Joyce Bupp**



Who would have ever dreamed it?

At this stage of my life, I'm suffering an identity crisis.

Or, maybe, identification crisis would be more accurate.

We arrived home from an overnight stay with friends two weeks ago to discover about a tractor-trailer load of stuff we can't identify unloaded all over the place.

Our basement couch was piled toward the ceiling with boxes. One head-high box semi-blocked the path to the first floor. In the spare bedroom were assorted computer system components, and the living room boasted a soft, cushioned office chair which the cat promptly claimed. A pickup-truck load which followed later now shares the garage with trash cans, the car, a canoe and my flat-tired bike.

And one whole barn floor, the one which I use (make that used) daily as a staging point for the movement of calf feed, hay and bedding is shoulder-height with the neatly-stacked contents of a life.

Well, not a whole life, but a couple years' worth.

Our son has moved home.

Now officially a Penn State graduate, The Farmer II has returned to join The Farmer in our dairy and crops operation. With him came everything from his collection of kayaks to miscellaneous computer games. Those I can identify. Contents of the stacks of boxes in the basement, lumpy plastic garbage bags, and miscellaneous bumps protruding from the pyramid on the barn floor; however, are anyone's guess.

File cabinets, glimpses of corners of a braided rug are obvious. A long metal pole looks like it might have something to do with a television antennae installation. And the hard, round object which rolled over my foot when I set out the trash for pickup was identifiable as a helmet — for one of his sports.

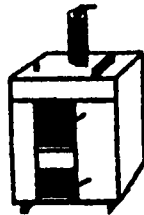
Beyond that, the contents remain intact in their storage spots and largely unidentified. Too much field work to be done for such mundane things as unpacking.

One identifiable new arrival is his dog which came home with

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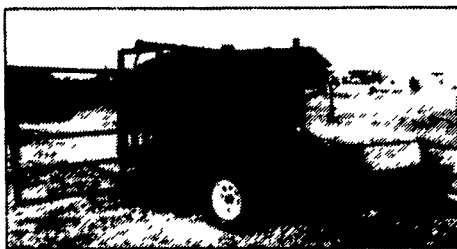
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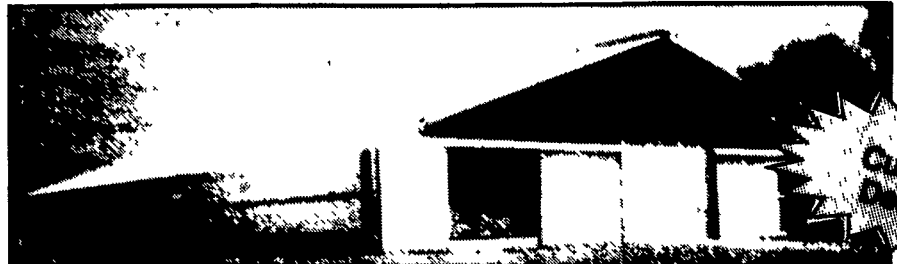
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