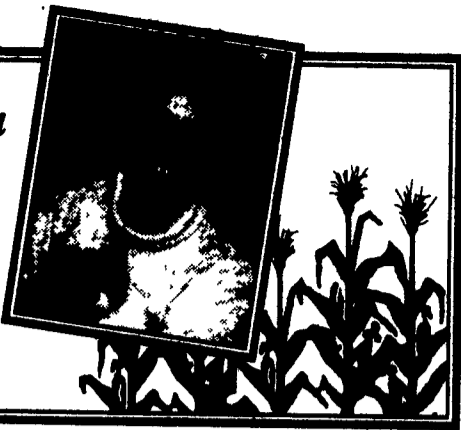


**On Being a
Farm Wife
(and other
hazards)**
Joyce Bupp



Shiny black eyes peek out from a narrow gap between the two walls.

Slowly, I stretch my hand in toward the eyes, which retreat even further back into the shadows. And though they can't be seen with a quick glance, other pairs of eyes watch this action.

While Tiger, our mother cat is

tame, affectionate and loves to be cuddled, her five kittens harbor less friendly feelings for us human types who invade their hiding places around the barn. It took several weeks initially to even see a glimpse of the litter, which she kept well hidden somewhere between the stone foundation of the old bank barn and its upstairs hay

storage floors.

As they outgrew that nest, Tiger moved her kittens to the feed alley between the original front of the barn and the cattle freestall area, which was added on to the barn several decades ago. When the dairy herd moved to the new stall barn, the old freestall section became overnight and bad weather shelter for the bred heifers. They're out on pasture most of the time, so the only other critters usually sharing the kittens' playground are the noisy roosters which, well, roost there.

Other weaned calves and young heifers are housed in nearby pens in this young-stock-raising area. Trying to catch glimpses of the elusive four orange and one black kittens has become a sort of game for me, while doing the feeding and bedding chores. But one look at this dangerous, intrusive person

stalking them and the kittens zip into hiding.

The narrow, dark gap between the bank barn foundation and the old milkhouse addition is probably their favorite hideaway. Only about four inches wide, the opening makes an ideal hallway to the outside for the furry babies, to run and play tag through, as well as a refuge from pesty farm wives feeding heifers nearby.

As the kittens have grown, so have their appetites, outstripping Tiger's ability to satisfy their hunger with milk. So she hunts for them for hours every day, stalking sparrows and prowling the pond's cattails for tender frogs. Even that extra meat on the table isn't enough, so mother and kittens get a supplemental snack of milk when I feed the calves.

After a couple of weeks of sneaking up to the wide milk dish only some time after it's been filled, the kittens are now growing either hungry or confident enough to edge closer when the milk bucket shows up. This morning, they even allowed me to gently pet them while they lapped up breakfast.

Growing almost as tame are the three, pudgy baby squirrels romping through the maple trees behind the house. Of course, they should be pudgy. With their mother, they chow down several pounds of corn and sunflower seeds every week, plus what they bury in my flower containers scattered around the porch and patio.

If we step outside and disturb their chores, the bushy-tails hang upside-down on the tree trunks, cussing at us in irate squirrel language. I can't speak it — but I get the message.

Tamest of all this year's baby critters are the six Canada goose youngsters. They're now in that awkward adolescent stage, with smooth, brown-feathered backs and lengthening black tailfeathers, but their necks and heads still covered with the fuzzy beige-colored down of infancy.

As soon as they spy one of us, they begin paddling in our direction. And, if food isn't forthcoming they'll yank on the shoestrings of our sneakers, dangling down at their eye level from the pond's wooden pier.

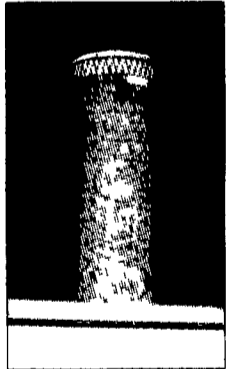
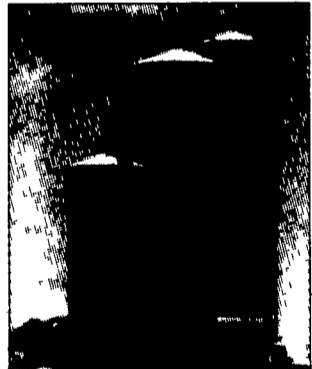
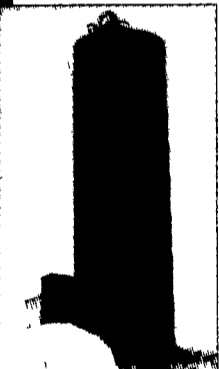
So along with our hungry bovine mouths to feed, we have kittens, squirrels and goslings lined up daily, expecting handouts.

Maybe we could list them as dependents on our income tax?

Big Jim[®] B.U.C.S.[™]

Gives You the Upper Hand on Your Bottom Unloader Problems.

If your bottom unloader is giving you grief, then it's time you got Big Jim B.U.C.S.—the Bottom Unloader Conversion System by Jamesway. With B.U.C.S. you get faster unloading, increased silo capacity, better quality feed and reduced maintenance and repair. And it easily installs in your steel, poured concrete or concrete stave silo. So take a load off your hands and contact the silo unloader expert—your Jamesway Dealer—for more information.



**See These Dealers
For Details Now...**

PRINGLES FEED STORE, INC.
Greenville, PA 16125
412-588-7950

HOOVER EQUIPMENT
Tyrone, PA 16686
814-684-1777

ROVENDALE AG & BARN EQUIPMENT
Watson, PA 17777
717-538-9564
OR 717-742-4226

WALNUT BARN EQUIPMENT
Port Royal, PA
717-438-9429

GNEGY SURGE SERVICE
Washington, PA 15301
412-222-0444

MARYLAND GLADHILL TRACTOR MART
Frederick, MD 21701
301-663-6060

JAMES L. HOSTETTER
McVeytown, PA 17051
717-899-6386

MD & VA MILK PRODUCERS ASSOC.
Frederick, MD 21701
301-663-6552

SOMERSET BARN EQUIPMENT
Somerset, PA 15501
814-445-5555

NEW JERSEY GEORGE COLEMAN
Elmer, NJ 08318
609-358-8528

HARRY TROOP
Cochranville, PA 19335
215-593-8731

STAR SILOS
Myerstown, PA 17067
800-431-7708

The Silo Unloader Experts



PENNSYLVANIA ERB & HENRY EQUIPMENT INC.
New Berlinville, PA 19545
215-367-2189

LAPP'S BARN EQUIPMENT SALES & SERVICE
Gao, PA 17527
717-442-8134

SOLLENBERGER SILOS CORP.
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-264-9588

JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH



All-Plant LIQUID PLANT FOOD

9-18-9 PLUS OTHERS!

- Contains 100% white ortho phosphoric acid. Made in USA.
- Non-corrosive. Won't settle.
- Top quality. Excellent service.
- Newest equipment.
- Financially sound... and growing!

Big Demand Requires More Distributors!

- I sell to farmers. How do I become your distributor?
- I'm a farmer. What's the price? Where do I get it?

**CALL or SEND FOR FACTS:
Phone: 814-364-1349**

ALL-PLANT LIQUID PLANT FOOD, INC.
821 State Rd. 511 N., RFD 3,
Ashland, Ohio 44805