

On Being a Farm Wife
(and other hazards)

Joyce Bupp



"OK, this isn't funny anymore," I muttered to no one but myself.

With that, I hauled myself up off the blacktop, where I'd ungraciously tumbled onto gravel and dust. After gulping down his evening bottle, the bull calf tied in the wagon shed had promptly wrapped me in his bale-string tether. Before I could get away, he'd wrapped the string around my left ankle, neatly tripping me.

It was a fitting flourish to an evening of near-tears frustration. Earlier, a favorite young cow had calved with a beautiful, big,

heifer calf, a perfect, normal delivery. The Farmer would be pleased when he and our son returned that evening, after spending the day together at Ag Progress Days.

In another calving pan nearby lay a large heifer, in early labor. By milking time, she rested with her tail against the barn's block wall, the calf's nose just beginning to show. Knowing she couldn't deliver the calf against the wall, I tried to rouse her. She struggled to her front feet, pulled herself ahead enough to allow birthing room,

but her back legs didn't seem to want to work.

Calving, especially for first-time heifers, is difficult on occasion. A hard or prolonged labor may temporarily cause muscle weakness and spasms in the back legs. That appeared to be this heifer's problem. But the calf was in position and delivery seemed imminent.

Shannon, our herdsman, arrived and fastened delivery cords to the infant's feet; we began to pull as a team. And pull. And pull. Strange. This calf did not appear to be that large. But despite our efforts, we didn't seem to be making much progress.

We tried pulling from various angles in the tight quarters. Both of us at some point examined the cow internally. The calf was where it was supposed to be. It was not too big. But it seemed to be "hung up."

Again trying to move the heifer, we cleared enough room to open one of the pen's wide gates, so we could get some leverage with the strings. By now, both of us found our hands and arms were getting

numb from pulling. Shannon speculated the calf might have some deformity we couldn't see causing it to be stuck.

We wrapped the strings around the gate and both leaned our weight into it. The calf appeared to move a bit. With renewed anticipation, we pushed back with every ounce of strength we could jointly muster.

A string tore and we went flying in tandem into the gate, landing in the thick sawdust bedding. This was not getting us anywhere. Meanwhile we pained for this heifer in labor and agonized over our inability to be able to help her. And our vet was away for the evening.

There was little to do but give the heifer some more time; maybe she would dilate further. While we finished up the barn work, we kept checking the heifer. Nothing. Feeding the rambunctious bull calf was the last chore of the eve-

ning. His dumping me on the ground seemed befitting to the mood of the moment.

Blessedly, The Farmers arrived home soon afterward and took command. They, too, pulled. And pulled. After about 10 minutes of intense efforts, finally finished the job.

Something HAD been drastically wrong. The bull calf was a month premature, already dead a day or so and beginning to swell with deterioration. No wonder we'd been unable to budge it. Relief that the heifer's ordeal was over mixed with apprehension that she might be permanently paralyzed in the back legs.

Twenty-four hours later, "Fancy" hopped to her feet, found they still worked, and began nibbling a grass outside the barn.

With some time and a little more luck, she might even live up to her name.

Wildfowl Show

KLEINFELTERSVILLE (Lebanon Co.)—On September 9-10, the ninth annual Middle Creek Wildfowl Show will take place. In recent years, this show has become a major exposition for wildlife carvers and artists. It will be held at the Pennsylvania Game Commission Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Visitor's Center in Kleinfeltersville.

The show will run from 9 a.m.

to 5 p.m. both days. Decorative and Gunning Decoy Contests will be held on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Water Dog Retrieving demonstrations will be featured on Saturday at 10 and 12, and Sunday at 11 and 2.

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is easy to reach. Follow a map to Kleinfeltersville (off Rt. 501) and from there, follow the signs for Middle Creek.

Cowtown Rodeo

Cowtown, N.J.

"Cow Capital of the First Frontier"

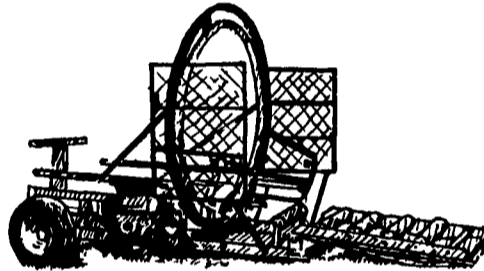


Located on U.S. Route 40, eight miles east of the Delaware Memorial Bridge in Salem County

SATURDAYS THRU SEPT. 30TH

Every Saturday Night ★ ★ 7:30 Rain or Shins
Admission \$10 Adults ★ ★ \$5 Children 12 and under
Free Parking ★ ★ ★ Refreshment Stands
Group Rates Available: Call 609-769-3200

BALE WRAPPERS



Gray's Patented inline bale wrappers put the film on the bale where it does the most good.

- * Fast operation up to 70 bales per hour
- * Self-powered
- * Low operating cost
- * Plastic cost: \$1.50 a bale
- * Tighter wrap
- * Proven by 6 years of use

FOR DETAILS CALL
GLENN BEIDLER **ROBERT WILKINS**
Freeburg, PA 17827 Saxton, PA
(717) 539-8993 (814) 635-3592

W.D. ESPENSHADE INC.
Coal Yard



Summer Prices Now Available
Place your order now!

380 W. Bainbridge St.
Elizabethtown, PA.

1-800-373-9704



Water Quality
An IMPORTANT
Ingredient In
Livestock Management

It's a fact! Contaminated water can have a costly effect on your livestock and poultry performance. Our years of experience plus hundreds of farm related treatment systems has proven the validity and practicality of correcting contaminated water.



Martin Water Conditioning Co.
SPECIALISTS IN FARM WATER TREATMENT

Call us today for treatment of:
*Nitrates *Bacteria *Iron *Sulfates
*pH *Acidity/Alkalinity

548 New Holland Ave.
Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 393-3612
800-224-3612
Along Rte. 23

Willis Sharp
Somerset, PA &
Surrounding Counties
(814)-893-5081
800-893-5081

740 E. Lincoln Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-7555
800-887-7555
Along Rte. 422

GOOD FOOD OUTLET STORES

See Our Original Line Of Golden Barrel Products Plus All Kinds Of Beans, Candies, Dried Fruit, Snack Mixes, Etc. At Reduced Prices



- * BAKING MOLASSES
- * BARBADOS MOLASSES
- * BLACKSTRAP MOLASSES
- * CORN SYRUPS
- * HIGH FRUCTOSE SYRUPS
- * MAPLE SYRUP
- * PANCAKE & WAFFLE SYRUPS
- * SORGHUM SYRUP
- * LIQUID & DRY SUGAR
- * PANCAKE & WAFFLE SYRUPS
- * CANOLA OIL
- * COCONUT OIL
- * CORN OIL
- * COTTONSEED OIL
- * OLIVE OIL
- * PEANUT OIL
- * VEGETABLE OIL
- * SHOOFLY PIE MIX
- * FUNNEL CAKE MIX
- * PANCAKE & WAFFLE MIX
- * ASSORTMENT OF CANDIES
- * DRIED FRUIT
- * SNACK MIXES
- * BEANS
- * HONEY
- * PEANUT BUTTER
- * BAUMAN APPLE BUTTERS
- * KAUFFMAN PRESERVES
- * SPRING GLEN RELISHES

If your local store does not have it, SEND FOR FREE BROCHURE

Processors Of Syrups, Molasses, Cooking Oils, Funnel Cake Mix, Pancake & Waffle Mix & Shoofly Pie Mix

GOOD FOOD OUTLET

— Located At Good Food, Inc. —
W. Main St., Box 160, Honey Brook, PA 19344
610-273-3776 1-800-327-4406

— Located At L & S Sweeteners —
388 E. Main St., Leola, PA 17540
717-656-3486 1-800-633-2676
- WE UPS DAILY -



SPECIALS FOR AUGUST

OLD FASHIONED SHOOFLY PIE MIX w/o SYRUP
Regularly \$1.19
Now **\$.99**

VEGETABLE OIL

1/4 Gallon

Special Price **\$.99**

MINT MOLASSES

16 oz. Regularly \$1.49

Now **\$1.19**

BARLEY MALT EXTRACT

Regularly \$2.49

Now **\$1.99**