

On Being a Farm Wife
(and other hazards)

Joyce Bupp



Berks Society 4

The September meeting of Berks County Society of Farm Women Group 4 was held in the home of Elsie Rothenberger, Powdermill Hollow Road, Boyertown.

Plans were made to attend the County Convention on October 7 in the Berks County Ag Center. The group is responsible for door prizes, guest basket gifts and auction items. Berks Heim Annex Bingo will be November 2.

A pound auction was held following the business meeting.

The next meeting October 3 will be at the Leader Home, Pottstown. Evelyn Becker, a resident, will be the hostess.

Seeing spots. No, my eyes haven't gotten even worse than they've been. It's just the season for livestock shows. And few things are more visually distinctive in the world of animals than those with unusual marking.

Tigers and zebras among the big ones. The two-tone-splotted, small caterpillar that stung me a few weeks ago as I gathered a bouquet of flowers is on the smaller scale. In between are things like the speckled orange, black and white Japanese koi, a brightly-colored large type of carp.

And, of course, cows. Those various patterns of cattle markings have always fascinated me — and the decorating world, as attested to the number of cow-related items still being marketed. An Ayrshire exhibited locally is among the most notable cow I know in markings, because of her

large, round, rusty-brown splotches against white.

Her large dots are at unusual places, like on her lower back legs. In fact, that animal's "cowhide" is so distinctive that it's easy to spot — no pun intended — the veteran show cow from year to year.

In recent years, some bloodline (or bloodlines) in our Holstein breed began throwing more unusual markings. One popular dairy magazine has printed numerous pictures sent in by readers who have had calves born with the number "7" emblazoned on their heads. We have a couple of those among our young stock, including one recently born out of old cow Hobi which has a "7" on its head — backwards.

An unusual marking which turned up in a Wisconsin herd of Holsteins a few years ago earned the owners a prompt sale and worldwide notoriety. Someone spotted a black spot on a cow's side that looked remarkably like the famed, round-eared, Mickey Mouse. That cow is now living the life of bovine luxury as a four-legged celebrity at one of the Disney theme parks.

York Farm Women Society #11 held their August meeting at the home of their president Arlene Miller. This was the youth program. Roll call response was "An event of your youth." An interesting discussion of "youth events" followed.

One item of business was contributions to five local fire companies, located in Shrewsbury, Glen Rock, Loganville, Jacobus and Winterstown.

Upcoming events are Farm Women's Day, Oct. 14 with a train ride starting in Gettysburg and ending at the Apple Festival in Arendtsville. Riding back to Get-

tysburg and having lunch at Bonanza Restaurant.

York County Convention will be held November 2 at Wise Haven Banquet Center.

The youth program was presented by Sammy and Amy Dise, granddaughters of Melba Dise, showing their 4-H projects, sewing, dress review and latch hooking. Amanda Delp granddaughter of Edith Delp played flute selections.

Members had a garden surplus and bake sale to supplement the treasury.

President Arlene served refreshments to the group.

Lancaster Society 20

Farm Women No. 20 met at the home of Mary Shirk with Lillian Winters and Marion Hastings as co-hostesses. Following the refreshments Marion had the devotions and the scripture.

For the Roll Call, each responded with the number of windows in their house and gave a penny for each one. The Sunshine Committee reported sending four

cards and one flower arrangement and gave a gift to Pauline Reinhart for the 50th Wedding Anniversary of she and her husband, Park. We will have a stand at TownsEdge on October 7 with Marie Foose as chair person.

For the program County Commissioner Terry Kauffman spoke.

Lebanon Society 20

Vera Gross invited members and husbands to her place to play shuffleboard Sept. 26 at 6:00.

The group toured the Gov. mansion on Sept. 19. New committees were chosen for 1996.

President Pat Zeigler handed out new books and went over the changes in the by-laws.

The next meeting will be Farm Women's Day breakfast at the home of Pat Ziegler at 9:00 a.m.



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