

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



your neighbors with respect, they will, in turn, treat you with respect. Living in the country is the best place to be. We love it."

Mirroring that philosophy is the advice of a former Philadelphian: "My advice to a person relocating to a new rural area is to appreciate the beauty of your new surroundings. These wonders are all a Gift from our Heavenly Father. Respect and care for this new land and have a warm smile and a simple greeting. Stay out of the gossip."

From one who has lived in various parts of the country and returned to her native county after marriage comes a different viewpoint: "...it seems we 'outsiders' are to be constantly reminded of our lower status. Since she/he does not have the involvement of raising a family, a move to rural northern U.S. would not be wise. It would be extremely difficult to make strong connections with neighbors and would take a long time."

Still another reader who found rural folks initially distant com-

ments: "...But the longer we live here the more understanding we have of their lifestyle. We find our neighbors to be lovely people—just very busy with their own lives and responsibilities. If you've moved rurally, don't try to change the way things are to the way you think they should be. Accept the differences. Remember the reasons you wanted the country life..."

A single, professional woman (who worked in Pennsylvania for a couple of years and did not feel personally accepted into the conservative rural community) writes from hundreds of miles away, across the country: "...some parts of agriculture do not smell like potpourri...some of it actually stinks! It is the natural environment they want until they live down the road from it. Then they are surprised how natural agriculture can be. I think we forget that

when someone moves into our neighborhood there are two cultures involved and we need to get to know each other."

And finally, from a new friend I just met from Tioga County—a "flatlander" dairy producer whose family moved north and loves it—comes this counsel: "Anyone contemplating a relocation should stop and look at lifestyles and future needs. A person in this area must travel 25 or 30 miles to a doctor or hospital. Major shopping areas are also a distance. There is no regular public transportation. Rural utilities aren't always dependable, so anyone with special needs—heat or oxygen—should be aware. Folks here depend on each other. We couldn't have found better neighbors or a nicer community."

There, dear reader, is advice from those who have been there. Hope we've helped!

"If we were to buy a farm in rural Pennsylvania, do you think we'd meet with hostility from the local residents?" was the dilemma posed to this column a few weeks ago by a reader considering relocating at retirement.

Located on a farm rapidly being encompassed by urban sprawl, our reader yearned to live in a more isolated area. However, a relative who had moved to a very rural part of the state felt so unwelcome he finally moved away again. That experience left our correspondent concerned over acceptance of

strangers by rural neighborhoods.

Several of you kindly took the time to write about your experiences as strangers in a new rural neighborhood. Responses have run two to one on the positive side. Thanks...thanks...thanks for sharing!

From a Mississippi-born grandmother of 20 who has moved eight times in her life, comes this advice! "People here are (and were) friendly and helpful. If you want or need help, generally somebody in the neighborhood will supply it. I think if you treat

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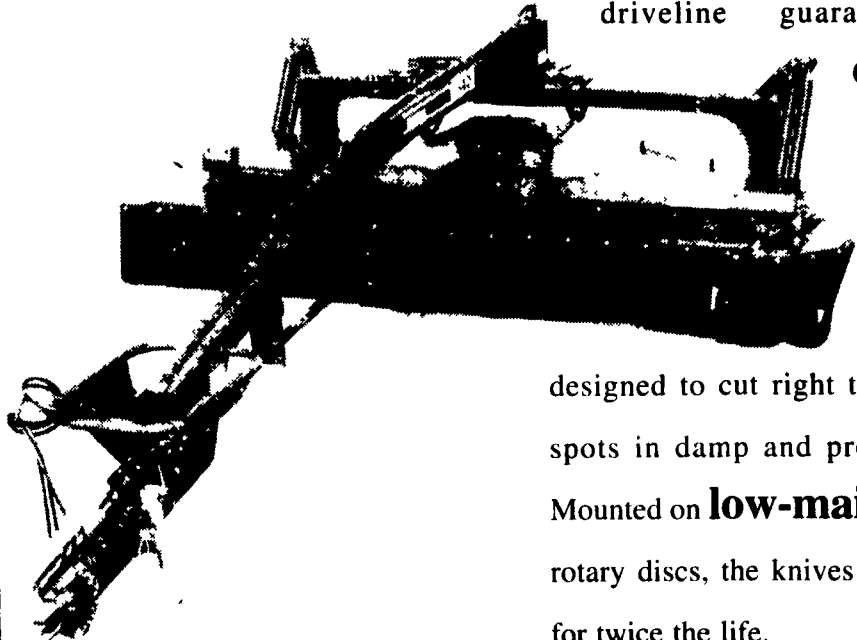
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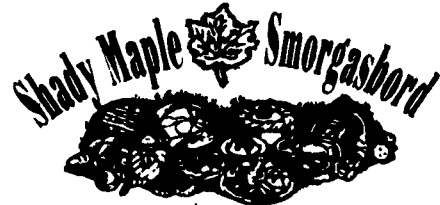
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