

Farm Couple

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dairy farmer until I fell in love. It's a whole new ballgame from poultry farming."

She loves the cows and enjoys helping out with the milking and stripping tobacco whenever needed.

"For me, the last four years have truly been an education to know how dairying works," she said.

Since Melissa finds dairying fascinating, the transition has been enjoyable.

"I know that farming is my husband's first love and I want to do everything possible to support him," she said.

Melissa said that some of her non-farm friends are appalled at the long hours and hard work that she does.

"Sometimes I get frustrated. I'm not the perfect little wife. But I want to support him wholeheartedly. It wasn't like I didn't know what I was getting into before I married him," Melissa said.

One of those ways to support Eric happened unexpectedly.

It began from Melissa's love for gardening. Because she loves it, she planted a large garden — too large for their small family to use. Melissa decided to sell excess produce from a flatbed wagon in front of their property. "It went gangbusters on us," Melissa said with a tinge of awe still in her voice.

The busily traveled highway is the ideal spot to sell produce. To help stock the wagon, Melissa asked her sister and her four children who grow an acre of sweet corn to bring the corn to her home to sell. It went so fast that she purchased cantaloupes, tomatoes, and other produce from other farmers to sell at her stand.

Melissa is making plans to enlarge her garden next summer.

It's sort of like *deja vu* for her

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The Herrs believe other couples should get involved in the Young Cooperative Program that has opened up a whole new world to them. Melissa said, "A lot of people don't realize that each milk co-op has the opportunity to send members to the YC."

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