

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

I lost a recipe. This is a recipe used periodically over the past 20 or so years, and a favorite of the kids when they were home. We dubbed it Apple Dapple, a sort of apple crisp, but with a buttery, cake-like topping over the fruit, rather than an oatmeal or crumb topping.

Actually, all I wanted was the ingredient list for the topping part, to use on a peach crisp. Which I had originally intended to top with an oatmeal-crumbs topping, except when I went for the oatmeal, there was none.

Obviously the morning was rapidly taking an unorganized turn here in my kitchen.

A second check and then a third through the "desserts" section of the recipe card file revealed the same stuff as before: microwave caramel corn, shortcake, cherry cheese pie, and the like.

I tried other sections, just in case. Not filed under "cookies."

Nor in "cakes." T'wasn't behind the "pastries" divider, either. And just to be sure, I rifled through "meats," "candies," and "beverages." Even tried "pickles." But Apple Dapple was gone.

There was another possibility. A few years ago, for Christmas, The Farmer gave me a magnetic-page photo album for filing all those loose recipes I had flying around and which I kept saying I wanted to put in a photo-file. So, now that's where they are — piled on a stack, inside the front cover of the album, handily kept atop the microwave oven. A quick flip through the snippets of paper and ragged-edged magazine pages revealed things like a bunny-shaped coconut cake and broccoli casseroles — but no Apple Dapple directions.

Though reluctant to face it, I knew there was yet another possibility.

The microwave sits on a corner

counter, beneath more corner cupboards overhead. In the back of and around it lies a dark, forgotten "black hole" where stray recipes (and goodness knows what else, including an occasional trespassing mouse) accumulates behind the coffee maker and blender. I venture here on investigative expeditions only rarely and usually only out of desperation.

With a hopeful sigh, I started rooting. From behind the blender came a handful of recipe clippings. Dust. More crinkled clippings. A wooden paint stirrer. (A paint stirrer??) The glass cap to a spice jar. More clippings. No Apple Dapple.

Might as well go the whole way. I moved the microwave. More recipes for broccoli casseroles, impossible pies and two for refrigerated/frozen cucumber slaw that I'd searched for fruitlessly last July. Along with a rusted canning jar lid, two milk jug caps, one old penny, a tiny plastic cap which covers an adjusting screw on a set of binoculars . . . and a pair of contact lenses.

Honest. How the small, blue lenses in their slender case got there shall ever remain a mystery. A label on the back says "Bupp" — and I always get light blue ones because they're easier to see when crawling around the floor hunting a dropped one.

And still more recipes. Assorted ones for zucchini, varieties of muffins, another broccoli casserole. Plus a couple for shoofly pie (another favorite I lost years ago) and several for bar cookies I

once had high hopes of trying. I finally gave it up and threw together a topping based on a biscuit mix. The resulting peach cobbler was OK — not spectacular, but edible. Plus there's a lot of new inspiration for meals stirring around in my head. As well as renewed hope to get that photo-album of recipes organized, once and for all.

The Apple Dapple recipe remains unbound. But spring housecleaning is wrapped up in at least one corner of the kitchen.

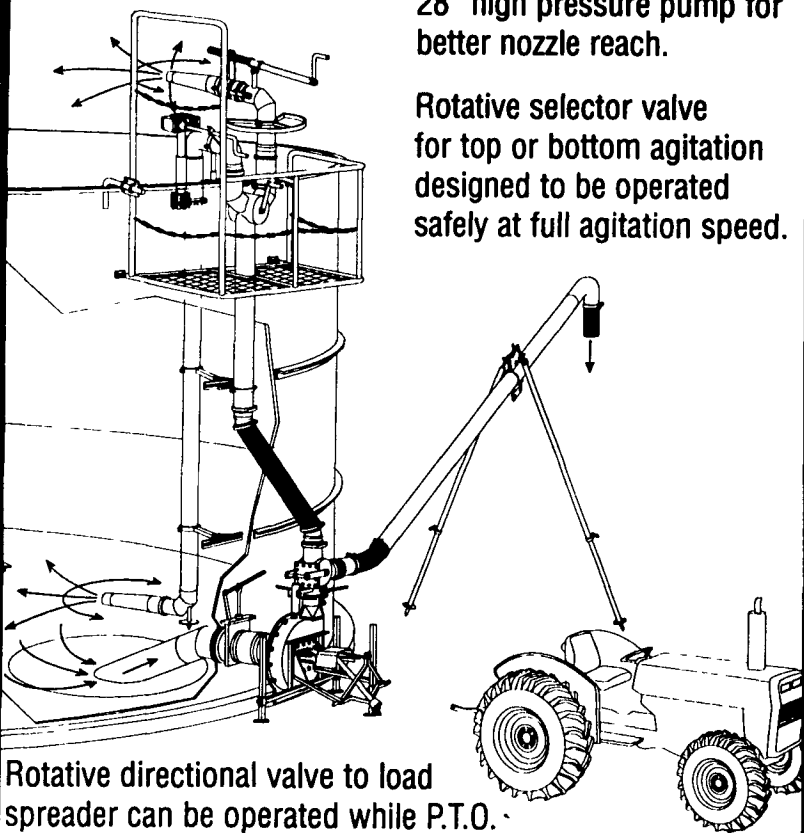
Farmers Learn Weed Control

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.)—Ephrata Area Young Farmers monthly meeting was held recently at a supper meeting at Family Time restaurant. After the meal, Tara Toper, from Ciba, gave a helpful discussion on chemical use in weed control. Luke Burckhart, Pa Dept of Agriculture, presented a film which presented the

proper approach to handling all aspects to be aware of in the use of chemicals. Andy Bowen, from DowElanco, followed with information on the treatment of the three types of rootworm that have now become a problem in the area. Also, information was given on soybean weed control. Farmers received 2.2 credits for licensing.

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