

Two Couples Tie The Knot Down On The Farm

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FAIRFIELD (Adams Co.) —

When Joan and Kenneth Brown decided to marry, they wanted a simple wedding that their 300 guests could enjoy. They decided that Brown's 103-acre dairy farm would be an excellent spot.

The groom wore a pair of bib overalls and a straw hat. The bride selected a country jumper and straw hat. Two calves served as the flower girls.

The wedding was such a huge hit with guests, that the Browns' friends Bud Yingling and Judy Neth asked if they could use the farm for their wedding this summer.

"Bud lives and breathes to talk about tractors," said Judy as she explained why she and Bud (Daniel) decided to have a country tractor wedding.

Bud's love for tractors is not surprising. He repairs and sells tractor parts at his business Yingling Sales and Services on Taneytown Road.

Although both ceremonies were held in front of the barn doors adorned with a cow, each left its own distinctive mark. While the Browns opted for country dress, Judy wanted to wear a "real" wedding gown. Her husband selected black pants and a white short-sleeved shirt.

Although she wore a wedding gown, it didn't hinder Judy from climbing aboard a brand new Ford tractor and riding to meet the groom instead of the traditional walk down the aisle.

The tractor imprinted on the wedding invitations for the Yinglings' country tractor wedding offered a preview of this tractor-theme wedding.

Because it was a second marriage for both Bud and Judy, the bride's three children and seven grandchildren and the groom's son made up the bridal party.

After the ceremony, the bridal party climbed aboard the hay wagon to drive to the three tents set up in a field where a whole beef

had been roasted for guests. Judy made the three-layered wedding cake adorned with tractors and borrowed the decorative cows dressed as a bride and groom, which Joan had used for her wedding.

After the reception, tractor rides were offered to guests.

At the Browns' reception, about 250 guests could choose to either sit on hay bales or on the chairs arranged beneath two tents. A neighbor charcoaled a beef and a local restaurant provided much of the food.

Since their marriage, Joan continues to operate her beauty shop, but manages to feed calves and help on the farm.

"I love it. I learned a lot about dairy farming that most people don't know anything about," she said.

The Brown's farm is called "Round Toit," meaning "when I get around to it." The farm includes 103 acres and 70 milking cows, but Brown farms a total of 1,000 acres.

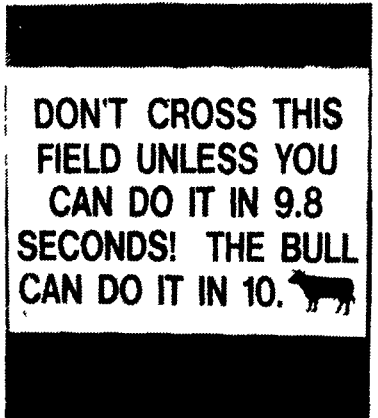
"We make a lot of round bale hay and grow corn," Brown said. Some of the acreage is also used for cattle grazing.

Brown said that he likes to invite a large crowd of people to his farm at least once a year. "That way, we keep it cleaned up. The barns all painted up and everything."

His former wife who died of a brain tumor had painted the cow on the barn doors and another one on the silo.



Dressed for the occasion, the groom and the minister wear bib overalls and the bride wears a country jumper. Notice that the groom and the minister, in respect of the ceremony, removed their hats and hung each on a pole. Although you can't see it, a rope was tied around the groom's leg and two calves served as the Browns' flower girls.



This sign warns wedding guests of impending danger.



Both the Yinglings' and the Browns' weddings were held in front of these barn doors. Brown's first wife painted this cow and another one on the silo before she died of cancer. The Yinglings are shown here with the bridal party made up of their children and grandchildren.



A side benefit to a farm wedding is the exposure city guests have to country life. Here, a boy from the city delights in the opportunity to feed a calf.



Here comes the bride — driving a tractor to meet the groom. Guests wondered which captured the groom's attention more — the bride or the brand new tractor — lent to her from Antletam Ford.

HOMESTEAD NOTES