

On Being a Farm Wife (and other hazards)

Joyce Bupp



ON BEING A FARM WIFE

It wasn't supposed to work this way.

The sudan-grass silage extender was supposed to have been chopped and in the silo. The tomatoes were to have been covered. There were melons still happily growing in the patch. All the geranium and impatiens cuttings were to have been taken and their bare stems tucked into starting medium in the greenhouse.

Yeah. Right.

And the frost-free date around here is supposed to be October 10.

If you believe that, I have ocean front property out my back door that I'll sell you, at a very reasonable fee, to build your own private deep-water marina.

Because, on the evening of October 1 — or more likely very early in the morning of October 2 — that gardener's fall nemesis, Old Jack Frost, paid us an unexpected and unprepared for visit. And he came during the one night of the month on which I had to be

away for an overnight meeting.

Of course, in all fairness to that seasonal harbinger of garden wipeout, frost-free dates have been established over the decades based on averages, and averages are merely a middle ground of extremes. Some years, we enjoy that frost-free extreme somewhere into early November. And the one time, 30 years ago, that I slept overnight with our showstring of cattle at the York Fair, we had frost in early September. (You can see my luck in playing the frost averages.)

Fortunately, Jack's icy paintbrush made a fast pass, and only blackened the tops of some of the stuff it touched. The sudan grass, basically a tropical plant which needs plentiful water to grow, has had a hard time this season anyway, with inadequate moisture to ever get it started right. Frost just finished the job.

Also turned black by the drop in the temperature was the garden's lush tangles of melon vines. But

we've enjoyed dozens of delicious cantaloupes, honeydews and watermelons, so we'll be grateful for the yield and not grumble over the loss of the latecomers. And tops of the tender impatiens just shriveled up overnight.

But most of the other stuff, even the cold-sensitive tomatoes and peppers, were a foot or so higher in the garden and sheltered a bit by the weedy forest next door, otherwise known as the asparagus patch. Some took significant damage, but they weren't all totally wiped out.

So, overnight it became a gardener's "squirrel" season — the hustle-bustle time of stashing and storing all salvageable stuff from the outside, like a bushy-tail hoarding away a cache of nuts for

the winter.

While the tops of the impatiens were blackened, new growth poking from lower parts of the stems remained lush and green. Sporting lopped tops and newly-pruned root balls, they've moved to more snug quarters inside the greenhouse. Keeping them company are some of the smaller geranium plants, reconfined to pots, and batches of cuttings from others too large to move indoors. A real killer frost is imminent, the rest of these bushy beauties will also be sacrificed for more cuttings. For now, their blooms are too pretty to chop the plants into pieces until absolutely necessary.

Two hills of cucumber vines that had just set their first infant pickles got their uppermost leaves

nipped by the cold, but look as though they may shrug off the initial damage. Each got an encouragement to overcome the chill in the form of a much-needed drink of water. The lush, abundant zinnias have brown-tipped blooms, but most of the stalks and buds also shrugged off the year's first threat.

There are amaryllis, arum lilies and gladoli to dig, dust and store, cleome and purple globeflower seeds to gather, impatiens and herb cuttings to take, houseplants summered on the porch to repot and relocate....and a whole bunch of other garden chores begging to be done.

Would someone please lock Jack Frost up in the Arctic Circle for at least another month?

Decade Of Growth For Pork

DES MOINES, Iowa — It's been 10 years since consumers in 15 metropolitan areas of the United States first heard about Pork. The Other White Meat®.

In the decade since, pork has virtually gained a brand name, and it's recognized by 86 percent of consumers from coast to coast, according to the most recent Meat Attitude and Perception Tracking Study.

The nationally representative survey of 1,000 households also indicated consumers who are familiar with pork advertising view the product more favorably

than those who aren't.

But who wouldn't be familiar with the landmark campaign? The pork promotion has sponsored Super Bowl telecasts and Barbara Walters' television specials, not to mention its advertisement in such diverse magazines as People and Atlantic Monthly or on numerous cable television programs.

"Consumers awareness is there. Pork is on the shopper's mind, but the challenge is for pork to be a regular entry on the weekly shopping list," said Robin Kline, Assistant Vice President of Marketing Communications for the

National Pork Producers Council (NPPC).

When asked to name a white meat, pork is mentioned more often than turkey and is second only to chicken. Studies indicate 61 percent of consumers regard pork as a white meat.

The number of people who give pork the highest rating has grown steadily for the past five years. Ratings for beef, chicken and fish have remained about the same, Kline said. Since the campaign began, positive perceptions of fresh pork have increased by an average of 20 percent.



Great Plains

10 ft. & 12 ft.

NO-TILL DRILLS

- Utilizes proven coulter/opener no-till system.
- Compact, well-balanced design transports easily.
- Heavy-duty coulters cut through tough ground and heavy residue.
- Dry fertilizer, small seeds, and fluffy seed box options.
- Lock-out hubs disengage drives for transport.



The proven Great Plains no-till system utilizes a coulter to prepare a mini-conventional seedbed for the openers to place the seed ... at the precise depth selected.

See The Dependable Great Plains Dealers Listed Below:

Dunkle & Grieb, Inc.

R.D. 2 Box 14, Center Hall, PA 16828
814-364-1421

C.B. Hooper & Sons, Inc.

Old Philadelphia Pike, Intercourse, PA 17534
717-768-8231

Chambersburg Farm Service

975 South Main Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-264-3533

Norman D. Clark & Sons

Main Street, P.O. Box 27, Honey Grove, PA 17035
717-734-3682

D & E Equipment

307 Edgar Avenue, Bloomsburg, PA 17815
717-784-5217

Carlisle Farm Service

260 York Road, Carlisle, PA 17013
800-447-6829

Lone Maple Sales & Service

RD #2, New Alexandria, PA
412-668-7122

Hines Equipment

Rt. 28 West, Cresson, PA 16630
814-886-4183
and Rt. 220, Belwood, PA
814-742-8171

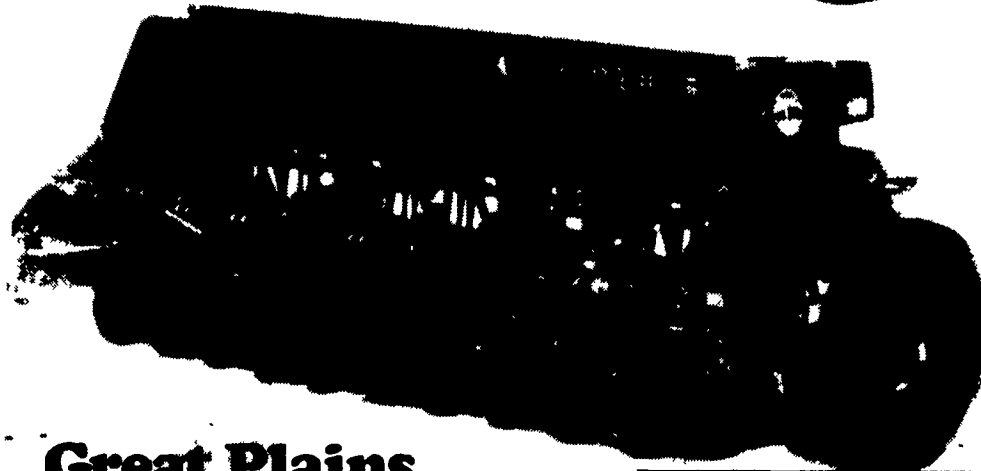
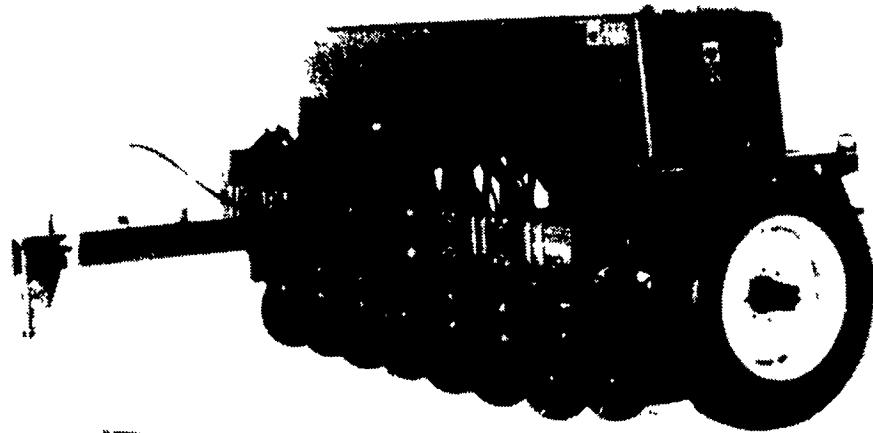
C. B. Hooper & Sons, Inc.

McAlisterville, PA 17049
717-463-2191

Lehigh Ag Equipment, Inc.

6670 Ruppville Road, Allentown, PA 18106
610-398-2553

The Most Comprehensive Set of
Time-Proven No-Till Drill Features
In The Business



Great Plains

We lead because we listen.

Inquire About Great Plains
Acceptance Corp.
FINANCE Programs