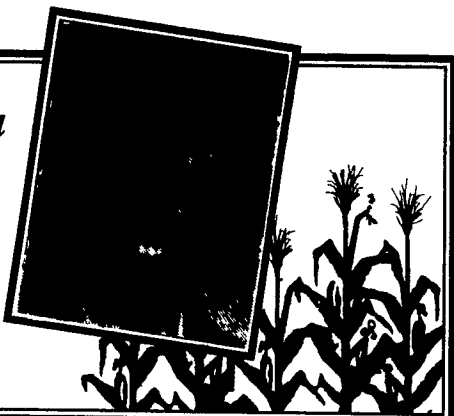


**On Being a
Farm Wife**
(and other
hazards)
Joyce Bupp



It was just one of those weeks. Phone ringing off the hook. FAX busy chewing up paper. Messages backing up in e-mail and a half-dozen projects at once in the computer. Paperwork arriving with each mail delivery. Bills to be paid.

Winter tractor repairs under way — always costly. Haymow nearly empty. And the kitchen floor feels like gravel underfoot.

While waiting for The Farmer to hang up the phone so I could make a call, I began shuffling through a stack of stuff off the

desk — and found "The Stress Test." Clipped months ago from some publication and stuck in the "save" accumulation of tidbits that might be useful at some future date. Or, at least good for a laugh.

Question 1 queried as to whether the testee consistently averaged less than seven hours sleep every night.

Seven hours sleep? On a dairy farm? Dare we count evening naps in easy chair induced by endless commercials shown between luge runs and figure skating on the recent Olympics broadcasts?

Next came a query as to if the testee was a caregiver or mother to teen-age or small children. On a stress comparison, two dozen baby calves and five cats (house and barn) aren't even close to those responsibilities.

The next question asked if the testee often feels that, no matter how much one does, it's never enough. That brought to mind the motto that has hung on our bulletin board for a couple of years and which reads: "I believe God put me on earth to accomplish a certain number of things, and right now I am so far behind I will never die."

"Are you frequently quite irritable or impatient when you have to stand in line or get stuck in traffic?" quizzed another question. Irritable at traffic? Me?

"Hey idiot, who taught you to drive?!" I've always wanted to yell at people who do stupid things behind the wheel of a car — like not using turn signals or zig-zagging through traffic on the highways.

Guilty. I plead guilty, your honor.

Next came an absolute no-brainer question: Do you play more than two roles daily, or often find yourself doing several things at once, like talking on the phone while watching the kids?

Or talking on the phone while cooking dinner . . . while writing checks . . . while sweeping the floor . . . while driving to work. Has this test-maker ever heard of the burgeoning popularity of portable and cell phones, for example? Designed for maximizing one's management. Unless one runs into a tree while talking and driving.

Another stress question dealt with one's frequency of losing important things like keys, money, appointments because of always racing the clock. Hummmn, where did I lay that pen I was using for this test . . . ?

The query on whether one overeats or eats "junk food" to give oneself comfort, energy or pleasure made me seriously ponder something and dash to check my

hidden stash.

Chocolate. What happened to my stash of chocolate? Omi-gosh, I'm out of chocolate. Aauggghhh!

One last question put the whole "stress" test into perspective, reminding me why most of us ordinary people who operate constantly under the normal demands of daily living don't even think twice about it.

"Are you in a significantly unhappy relationship at work and/or home?"

No. No. And, NO!

And, when one is reminded of the blessing of basic happiness with one's life, stress doesn't seem to be such a big issue. Personally, that has something to do with having lived for more than three decades — marked again this month — with a hubby as laid-back and easygoing about life as The Farmer.

Who, by the way, just refilled the chocolate supply when he picked up hydraulic oil.

Happy Anniversary, Dear.

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Baralfa 54 from BARENBRUG is a synthetic variety selected for exceptional yield and excellent disease resistance. Baralfa 54 is a vigorous high yielding variety with very fast regrowth after cutting. Baralfa 54 displays above average leafiness and is very persistent.

Variety	1996 yield	STAND 10/11/96
Baralfa 54	7.88	84.0
5454	7.60	84.2
DK 127	7.43	88.6
Mariner	7.38	86.1
TMF Generation	7.13	86.3
Multiqueen	7.10	80.6
WL324	7.08	84.6
WL323	7.05	82.0
Dividend	6.98	81.3
Preferred	6.97	85.8
Magnum IV	6.93	85.4
ABT 405	6.91	90.7
Haygrazer	6.89	80.9
5312	6.89	86.8
WL 332 SR	6.88	82.8
Excalibur II	6.86	84.9
Prism 2	6.84	85.9
WL 252 HQ	6.81	81.5
Innovator +Z	6.76	83.3
Supercuts	6.76	83.3
Dominator	6.67	84.2
Saranac AR	6.61	81.9
Alfastar	6.58	86.0
Magnum III-Wet	6.54	84.5
Affinity +Z	6.52	85.7
BH330	6.40	85.5
Grand Mean	6.95	84.3
CV (%)	4.35	4.0
LSD (pm05)	0.42	4.7

* Seeded April 20, 1995
* Yields (tons per acre at 12% moisture)
* Yields indicated represent the sum of four cuttings
* Grand mean CV, and LSD values represent 64 total entries
* Varieties are listed by rank for 1996 yield

CV - Coefficient of variation
LSD - Least significant difference

Table 9
1995 alfalfa variety trials-Landisville

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- * Improved high yielding Annual Ryegrass
- * Brassica & Turnips
- * Baralfa 32IQ Alfalfa
- * White and Red Clovers
- * Horse Master & Stock Master Improved Blends
- * Chicory
- * Custom Blends

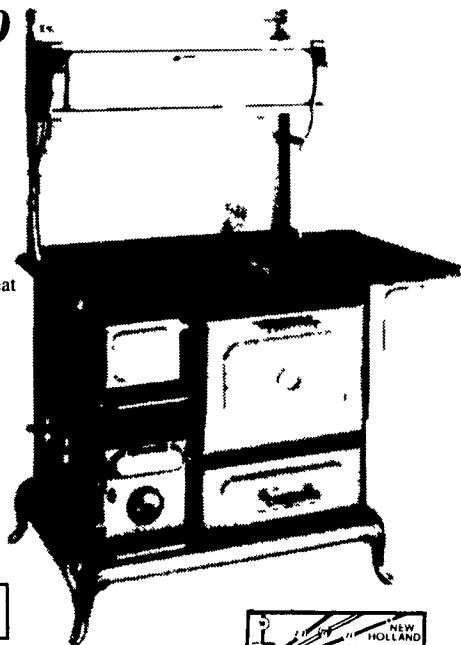
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**The new 7100
Gas/Propane
Range**

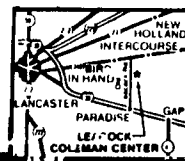
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- Sealed Burners
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- Built in Exhaust fan
- Pull out broiler drawer under oven
- Natural gas or propane
- Approved for residential or commercial use by American Gas Association and Canadian Gas Association
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• Available in Gas, Electric and Woodburning models



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