

## Consuming Thoughts

by

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Winter days are great for tackling do-it-yourself projects around the house. Even though the weather has been mild, it's still too early to start working in the yard or garden, so devoting energy and enthusiasm to "getting things done" in the house has almost no competition.

The kitchen is probably a good place to start with some remodeling or refurbishing projects. After all, it gets heavier use, almost every day of the year, than any other room.

- Before tackling any project, no matter how simple, do your homework! Read home decorating magazines for ideas. Explore kitchens in model homes. Investigate gourmet

shops and kitchen accessory stores in your area.

- Personalize your kitchen by choosing a "theme" that fits your lifestyle. For instance, create a country kitchen atmosphere by covering a bare wall with simulated brick. Hang cooking pots and utensils out in the open on wrought iron rods. Add wicker baskets, gingham curtains, and let your imagination go!

Use herbs and baskets as your theme with an herb border wallpaper and baskets for useable food serving or storing accessories.

- Get twice as much use from the space you've got. For example, create a family snack bar and memo center in one. Install a counter along one wall. Add a

couple of stools underneath it, a bulletin board and calendar above it, and you've got yourself an information and planning headquarters the whole family will enjoy.

- Follow common-sense safety precautions. Choose the right tool for the job and keep it well maintained. Make sure you have enough light, and wear work clothes suitable for the job. Keep tools, paint cleaners, etc., out of children's reach. Allow yourself plenty of time - most accidents happen because people are rushing to finish the task.

- Become familiar with the surface materials in your

kitchen and how to maintain them. Use household cleaners that will protect their beauty and service.

- An easy all-purpose cleaner can be made right in your kitchen. Here are three recipes from which to choose:

1. By combining 1 teaspoon borax with one quart of warm water. Add a splash of lemon juice or vinegar to cut grease.

2. Mix 2 teaspoons borax and 1 teaspoon soap in one quart of water. This mix can be stored in a spray bottle.

3. Mix 3 tablespoons of washing soda per quart of warm water.

- Remember that powdered cleansers are the most abrasive and will scratch most surfaces with regular use. Always use a gentle, liquid product on fiberglass, marble, glass, and Formica surfaces. Apply the least amount of cleaner possible with a damp sponge and light touch on chrome appliances, stainless steel, and refrigerator doors.

- Also use make-it-yourself polishes. Clean copper with salt and lemon juice or vinegar. Make your own brass polish by combining two tablespoons of salt, a cup of vinegar, and enough flour to form a paste.

To obtain a copy of Alternative Household Cleaning Solutions, a Penn State Cooperative Extension bulletin by Cathy F. Bowen, Consumer Issues Specialist, contact your local Cooperative Extension Office or send a self-addressed,

stamped envelope to Alternative Household Cleaning Solutions, Berks County Cooperative Extension, Berks County Ag Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, PO Box 520, Leesport, PA 19533-0520.

## Pa. Jersey Queen Candidates Sought

LIBERTY (Fayette Co.) - It's almost spring; a time for watching that first brave flower poke its head through the cold earth and for looking forward to the long sunny days ahead. It's also the time that Pennsylvania Jersey breeders select a new Jersey Queen.

Not only will the new queen represent Pennsylvania at various fairs, sales, and activities, she will also be Pennsylvania's official representative in the National Jersey Jug Queen contest to be held in Louisville, Kentucky in November.

All young women between the ages of 15 and 19 who are

daughters of Jersey breeders or who own one or more Jersey projects are eligible to compete.

The Pennsylvania queen will be selected by a panel of judges at the Pennsylvania Jersey Association Annual meeting to be hosted by the Cumberland Valley Jersey Breeders.

To enter the contest, contact youth director Melanie Dietrich Cochran for an application. Call her at (717)423-6828 or send her an e-mail at [sdietric@epix.net](mailto:sdietric@epix.net), or write to her. Send completed applications plus two photos of yourself to Melanie at 92 Leshar Road, Newburg, PA 17240 by March 15.

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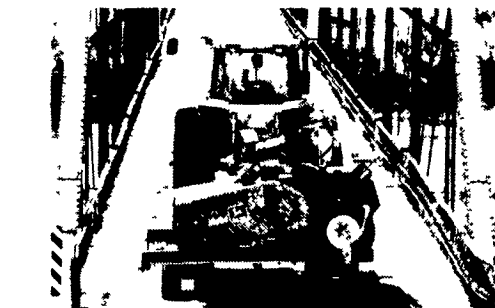
Four new John Deere Rotary MoCo's join our current 945 Rotary model for fast haymaking. They're great for making quick work of thick grassland or harvesting tangled alfalfa.

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these new rotaries offer a John Deere exclusive for faster drydown - impeller conditioning. Its unique rubbing action removes the waxy layer from stems so moisture evaporates faster, hay dries quicker, and you bale sooner. Or choose another John Deere exclusive - urethane-roll conditioning. The cold-formed urethane rolls stay arrow-straight for uniform conditioning, fast drydown, and increased durability.

Stop by and see why nobody does hay better. Just ask your John Deere dealer to demo a new rotary MoCo.

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