

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



A nest tucked in the mow.
The first chicks hatched out
weeks ago
But they're long gone by now.

I spied them, too, while tossing
down
Some bales to bed the cattle.
Bent down, peeked in, got warn-
ing sound
From hen, a throaty rattle,

But armed with gloves, I took a
chance
And spied beneath the mother.
A bright-eyed, fluffy chick
peered out,
First one, and then another.

We built a stair-steps out of
bales
So she could lead them out
To feed and water, safer site
In which to move about.

That was the last we saw of
them

And thus we speculate
A cat, most likely, also found
The Nest...and hence, their
fate...

So here she has a second chance
To raise a family
If smart, she'll find a better spot
Than in the straw and hay.

Now, chickens aren't known for
their brains
But for their egg vocation
Instinct will lead her right on
back
To nest in same location.

And that is why, when some
would search
In yard, flower beds and bush
Our kids soon learned where
eggs were found
And to the barn they'd rush.

As Easter now is here once more
This message, let me warn:
Take special care to hide your
eggs
Elsewhere than in the barn.

Because the barn's a busy place
And thus...alas! Alack!
The egg you hide so carefully
Could.... watch!.... look out!....
oops!.... SPLAT!

Fresh eggs can make a yucky
mess
And thus - no doubt - the rea-
son
We've always favored hard-
boiled ones
To celebrate the season.

Have a very blessed and eggs-
tra special Easter!
(And our apologies to one irate,
stepped-on hen...)

Dairy Princess Candidates Needed

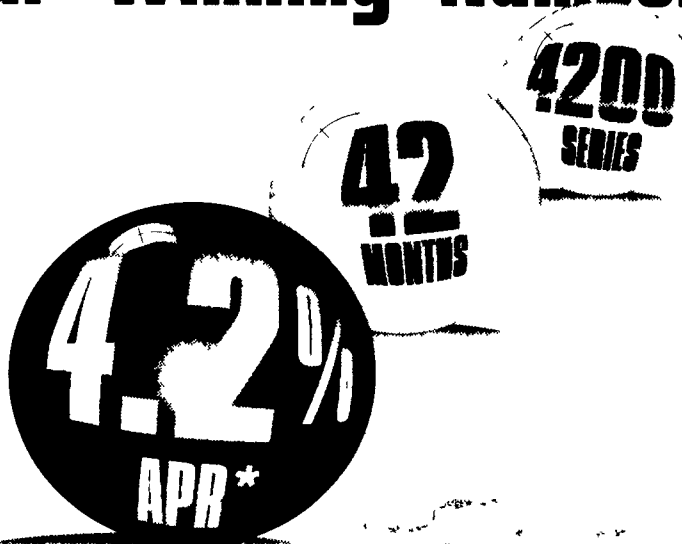
SELINGROVE (Snyder Co.)
- The SUN Area Dairy Princess
Committee is seeking candi-
dates to serve as SUN Area
Dairy Princess for the 1998-99
year. All single young ladies
from a dairy background or with
an interest in the dairy industry
are encouraged to respond.

The SUN Area Dairy
Princess will be selected on June
13 at the Susquehanna Valley
Mall. The deadline for register-
ing as a contestant is April 25.
Any female between 16-24 years

of age should contact Linda
Fisher at RD 3, Box 260S,
Selingsgrove, PA 17870 or
Shannon Hoffman, RD 2 Box
132, Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA
17583.

Any girls between the ages of
13-16 who would like to be a
SUN Area Dairy Maid or
between the ages of 9-12 who
would like to be a SUN Area
Dairy Miss should also contact
Linda Fisher or Shannon
Hoffman for an application. The
deadline for those entries is also
April 25.

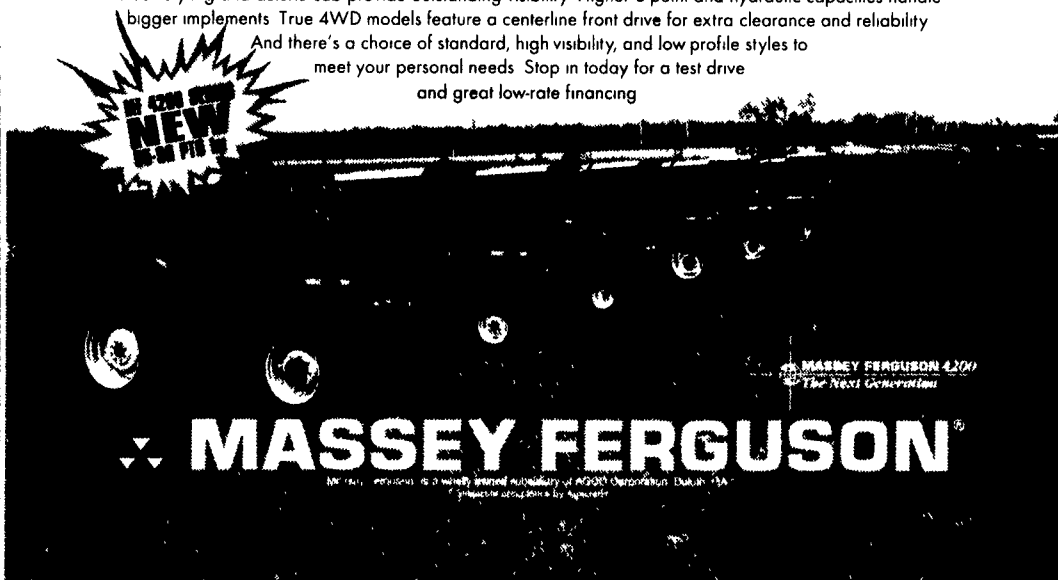
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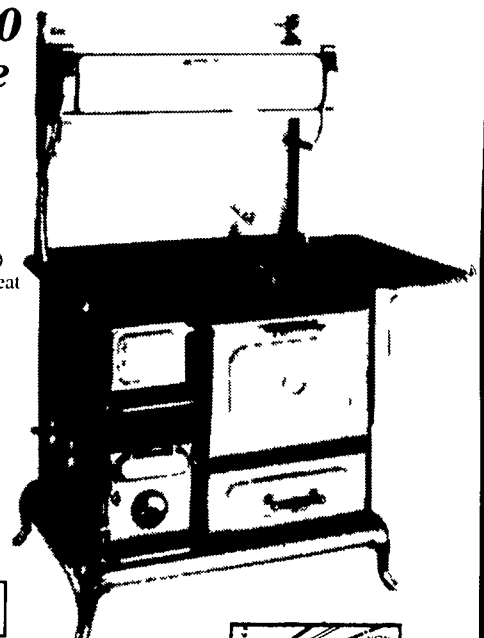
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