



It's a war zone out here. Guerrillas spy out in the bushes. Attacks wait outside the front door. And it's hardly safe to walk around the old barn.

But, then, that is the perfect spot for battle maneuvers. Lots of nooks and crannies for fox-hole-type hideouts. Rugged attack sites among straw mow fortifications. Temporary battle shelters behind sandbags....er, feedbags.

Luckily, despite the continuing confrontations, there have been no casualties. But the fur does fly on occasion.

That, I suppose, is only to be expected during the annual territorial battles among the farm's cats.

Cat squabbles have been relatively low key around here the last few years, due to a very small number of cats on the property. Two new additions - a couple of regular visitors - have escalated the squirmishes this year.

One probable reason is our out-of-whack ratio of three male cats to the one female residing around in the old barn.

Long-time resident Pest, the old gray-and-white tomcat, is senior of our feline set. Though he once was always underfoot - hence his name - Pest now mostly just hangs out around the calf barn waiting for the morning and evenings fills of the milk bowl. Despite his laid-back personality, Pest does get territorial

when it comes to competitors moving in.

Which is part of the reason Midnight, more recent addition to the cat residency, cowers under the heifers' feed trough most of the time.

Midnight turned up one Sunday evening last fall, injured and half-starved, surrendering to the enticements of bologna and cautious petting. Several weeks of TLC (catfood, milk, a topical antibiotic and human attention) plumped and healed the beautiful shiny-black cat, but his checkered past and apparent abandonment left deep psy-cat-logical scars. Although Midnight loves being petted, he prefers it on his terms, and no cuddling, please. He's extremely wary of other cats, especially Pest in one of his more aggressive moods. Though Midnight finally did settle into being a barn cat, he's generally in hiding. And, the wild calls him back for occasional several-day forays to the woods and meadows.

Even more recent arrival is Butch, the charcoal-and-beige tabby donated by friends. Like Tigger of Winnie-the-Pooh fame, Butch bounces around the farm with great exuberance, turning up under my feet regardless of where I am or what I'm doing

outside. His bad habit of using one's jeans legs as a climbing tree is under treatment. Few things intimidate Butch, save for housecat Monk, who despises all other cats and hisses Butch off "her" porch.

Into this array, plunk one hulking, aggressive, stray orange cat who skulks around the barn, zips through the backyard and occasionally scares the daylight out of me when I stumble across him snoozing in the straw mow.

The upstart of all this is that one never knows which feline will come streaking around a

corner in pursuit of an interloper, or how long the growling, yowling and/or howling will persist.

Blissfully unaware of this is Calico, the young multi-colored female nonchalant about her role in keeping the cat pecking order in disarray. Mostly she just snoozes, curled up in the hay of one of the weaned heifer pens.

I picked her up this morning. And noticed that she seems to be gaining weight.

We may have an interesting-looking litter of kittens upcoming.

## Attend Berks Pageant

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Attend the Berks County Dairy Princess Pageant to be held May 9, at the Berks County Agriculture Center in Leesport. The pageant reception begins at 6:15 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m. Tickets are

\$10 for adults, children 6-12 years are \$8, and children 5 years and under are \$1. Reservations must be made by April 25. Send a check to Barbara Grimes, P.O. Box 215, Strausstown, PA 19559.



**Maintenance Free Railings For Porches, Decks or Balconies**

*Elite*  
VINYL RAILING SYSTEMS

717-354-0524 New Holland, PA

## Pasture Mat

The Golden Standard In Cow Comfort

**Why Pasture Mat?**  
Pasture Mat is tightly stuffed with rubber and sewn every 4" to prevent shifting  
Proven most durable top cover  
Least abrasive top cover on the market  
Fits any stall  
Proven performance

**The Rewards**

- Better Cow Health
- Reduced Leg Injury
- Reduced Swollen Hocks
- More Lactation Per Cow - More Milk
- Reduced Bedding Costs
- Pasture Mats Often Pay For Themselves Within 6 Months

For details and installation with over 4 years experience, call:  
**Petersheim's Cow Mattresses**  
117 Christiana Pike (Route 372), Christiana, PA 17509  
**610-593-2242**  
U.S. Pat No 5653195 Sam Petersheim

CLOSED SUNDAYS, NEW YEAR, EASTER MONDAY, ASCENSION DAY, WHIT MONDAY, OCT. 11, THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS & DECEMBER 26TH

**FISHER'S FURNITURE, INC.**

NEW AND USED FURNITURE  
USED COAL & WOOD HEATERS  
COUNTRY FURNITURE & ANTIQUES

BUS. HRS. MON.-THURS. 8-5 FRI, 8-8, SAT. 8-12

BOX 57 1129 GEORGETOWN RD. BART, PA 17503

## MILLER DIESEL, INC.

FUEL INJECTION & TURBO SPECIALIST

6030 JONESTOWN ROAD, HARRISBURG, PA 17112  
(717) 545-5931 • 1 (800) 296-5931  
Since 1957

MEMBER **ADS** ASSOCIATION OF DIESEL SPECIALISTS

Specializing in:  
**FARMING & AGRICULTURAL**  
Factory Authorized Diesel Fuel Injection Sales, Service & Parts

Miller Diesel, Inc. offers:

- \* Diesel Fuel Injection Pumps, Injectors, Turbochargers
- \* Factory Trained & Authorized for complete services on: Stanadyne (Roosa Master), Lucas CAV, Simms, Robert Bosch, Ambac (American Bosch), etc.
- \* Instant Exchange or Rebuild (Fast Turn Around Time)
- \* Feed Pumps (John Deere & Most All Applications)
- \* Quality Workmanship, Experience, Troubleshooting.
- \* Free Pick Up & Delivery (100 mile radius of Hbg.) Daily UPS Shipping

**MILLER DIESEL, INC.**  
WE WANT TO BE YOUR FUEL INJECTION SPECIALIST

Introducing the new and improved F-Series Bobcat<sup>®</sup> 753 Skid-Steer Loader

## Strong. Compact. Maneuverable.

- NEW!** 43 5 HP Kubota diesel engine for improved performance!
- NEW!** Larger tilt cylinder more rollback power for improved digging and loading capability!
- NEW!** Faster travel speed (6.6 mph) for quick cycle times!
- NEW!** More hydraulic flow (14.3 gpm) for faster cycle times, better attachment performance!
- NEW!** Higher Rated Operating Capacity (1,350 lbs) for more lifting, carrying ability!
- NEW!** Strong one-piece tailgate design resists damage!

### See One Of These Local Dealers Today!

Quarryville, PA  
**GRUMELLI'S FARM SERV.**  
717-786-7318

Harrisburg, PA  
**HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT**  
717-564-3031  
Lititz, PA  
717-625-2800

Reading, PA  
**CSI ENTERPRISES INC.**  
610-926-4400  
Bethlehem, PA  
610-868-1481

Chambersburg, PA  
**CLUGSTON AG & TURF INC**  
717-263-4103

Lebanon, PA  
**EVERGREEN TRACTOR CO.**  
717-866-2585  
1-800-441-4450

Muncy, PA  
**BEST LINE LEASING, INC.**  
717-546-8422  
800-321-2378

Martinsburg, PA  
**BURCHFIELDS, INC.**  
814-793-2194

Mifflinburg, PA  
**BS & B REPAIR**  
717-966-3756

