

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

cool environment. The old kitchen towel blanketing them also discourage those pesty fruit flies.

Peaches began ripening earlier than usual this year, but must have picked up extra flavor with their speed. They are absolutely delicious, some of the sweetest I remember eating in years. The only "down" side of earlier peaches is that they may not stretch out as long into the fall. Thus, we must concentrate on gobbling lots of 'em while they're so deliciously available.

Another fruity scent hangs around a small bush in the backyard shrub border. Our lone blueberry bush has failed to grasp the concept that blueberries bear best with a couple of friends around for pollination. It went ahead and singlehandedly populated itself with lots of berries, which have been ripening over a couple weeks. I refrigerated several handfuls of these favorites of The Farmer until there were enough to create a really special August Aromatherapy, the smell of blueberry cheesecake baking in the oven.

But others hanker after the plump, lightly-scented blueberries.

Before I realized last year

why the mockingbird was perpetually hanging around the border, it was too late. Every blueberry on the little bush had been devoured. By then, all I could do was be aggravated at myself. And buy blueberries.

One recent morning, I spied the mockingbird, tentatively hopping around in the grass, cocking its head from side to side, checking out the blueberry bush from a distance. That bush is encased in a tangle of nylon netting this season, salvaged from one of the big round bales

we feed to the heifers.

So, the score thus far for this year: Farmers 1, Mockingbirds 0.

But, the thwarted, noisy bird is spending more and more time on the electrical wire above the garden, where the August aromatherapy of ripening cantaloupes is drifting upward. Would mockingbirds eat cantaloupes?

Just in case, I'm encouraging the presence in the garden of an all natural, anti-bird-scent source.

Here kitty, kitty, kitty....

## Largest Nutrition Grant

ROBBINSVILLE, NJ — Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced that Pennsylvania's Department of Education received a \$249,951 grant, the largest of 17 competitive grants awarded to individual states, to help the states promote nutrition education and healthy foods in the school cafeteria, the classroom and the community.

The 1998 Team Nutrition Grants provide training and technical assistance to school food service staffs, as well as local-level grants for schools to use to establish cafeteria-classroom links to support healthy eating messages for children.

"School food service staffs are the key to delivering healthy school meals for children," Glickman said. "these grants represent some excellent ways to link food, nutrition and health to other classroom lessons."

Pennsylvania's award-winning project proposal will document the successful implementation of USDA's School Meals Initiative in two model schools using videos, teleconferencing, and the development of a best practices manual based on the schools' experiences

Team Nutrition Training grants were first awarded in 1995, and to date, USDA has awarded 72 grants to 84 states, totaling \$14.1 million.

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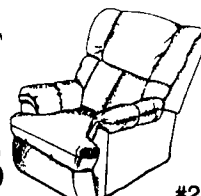
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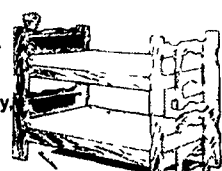
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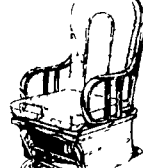
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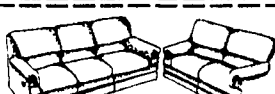
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