

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



All the bunnies out there are being run ragged today.

What with those millions of baskets to pack with colorful plastic straw and candy, plus hours of poking eggs into creative hiding spots, it's enough to make a rabbit's whiskers twitch overtime.

At least in our neighborhood, the overworked Easter bunnies can skip decorating all those hard-boiled eggs before they hide 'em. Our grandsons have been working at those for weeks.

Coloring Easter eggs is just another of the many "projects" their mom and dad may come up with to keep them busy and doing creative and learning things each day. These "projects range from designing holiday cards (perfect for grandparents' refrigerators) to planting gar-

dens to picking up woodstove kindling to building snowmen to creating artwork with stickers.

One sticker "project" that comes to mind was particularly notable. And costly. It included a 3-year-old's use of several-dollars-worth of colorful, adhesive, U.S. postage stamps.

Based on personal observation and participation, here are a few handy reminders for making one last Great Easter Egg Project at your household a memorable time for you and your favorite kids, before moving on to the next holiday.

1. Put a dozen - at least, but preferably more if you have several artists - eggs into a pan, cover with cold water, and bring to a boil. While waiting, remove everything with several feet of surface where the egg coloring

will take place and cover that surface liberally with old newspapers. Assign specific seats to children who are squabbling over who sits where. If a grandma is handy, strategically locate her between children to help maintain order.

2. When eggs reach the boiling point, cover pan, reduce to a very low simmer for 8-10 minutes. Meanwhile, assemble assorted egg coloring materials such as non-toxic vegetable dyes, cotton-tipped swabs as "paintbrushes," small, deep, non-tipping dishes for dipping eggs into color and assorted decorative materials, including if desired, stickers. (Hide postage stamps.) Slice a cardboard/styrofoam egg carton into sections to "park" hot eggs in while painting to avoid having them roll to floor. Separate the pair of siblings who are painting designs on each other.

3. Retrieve the assorted egg art materials from the sibling who has ascertained that he/she needs all the materials at his/her place. Wipe tears from the eyes of others and confidently assure them that all will share.

4. Remove eggs from water as needed and assign one at a time to each artist. Wipe up of pink dye from container which has tipped and soaked newspaper,

table and puddled on floor. Duck flying spatters of color being exuberantly applied by older ones. Grab for runaway egg headed for floor.

5. Feed dog broken egg pieces from floor.

6. Monitor that dyed eggs are not returned to boiling kettle to be washed and re-worked.

7. Pile eggs in basket, give additional badly-cracked one to dog. Remove kids to outdoors and hide eggs in strategic places. Avoid falling over dog begging for more eggs.

8. Explain to wailing "finders" that the "hider" is not stealing their eggs.

9. Offer hunting tips to younger "finders": "There, right at your feet, in the grass." Remove tricycle and explain that riding into the hidden eggs is unacceptable. Feed dog the egg smashed by the tricycle.

10. Put kids down for naps. Clean up wet, pink newspaper. Clean up floor. Clean up egg pieces. Relocate snoring dog to porch.

11. Deliver remaining usable decorated eggs to grandma to recycle into redbeet eggs.

12. Restore your energy level by snitching a piece of Easter chocolate... and enjoy a happy and a blessed Easter!

Gettysburg Senior

(Continued from Page B2)

series of teacher workshops," said Mildred. "I had to send it to the Department of Education for approval."

The workshops will be presented to fourth, seventh, and tenth graders in the county and will use the new Pennsylvania standards for environment and ecology.

"I do miss the interaction with farmers, but I enjoy educating people about conservation," said Mildred. "Besides, the farmers still stop by to say hello when they're in the office."

One of Mildred's projects in her new job has been to initiate a water-testing program. "People can bring in their water samples, and we'll send it to the Department of Environmental Protection lab for testing," said Mildred. "We use the samples to help them correct problems."

Because of the water-testing program, Mildred has had quite a few people inquiring what they should do about various problems with their wells and springs. "I try to help them figure out what they should be testing in their water," said Mildred.

While working at the Conservation District, Mildred has received several awards for her outstanding work with the farmers. She has also earned the respect and admiration of her co-workers.

"I really enjoy my job," said Mildred. "I like the interaction with people, and it gives me a reason to get up in the morning."

In addition to working a full-time job, Mildred still finds time to mow her lawn, keep a beautiful rock garden, and volunteer for various organizations. Sometimes she has evening events, such as the Adams County Farm City Festival committee meetings and other meetings.

Mildred is also very active in the Bethel Mennonite Church, where she is the Sunday school teacher for the adult class and is involved with the music program.

Mildred has three daughters and one son. Her daughter Carolyn Sell lives in California with her husband and two grown children. She is a school teacher. Joanne Musselman, Mildred's second daughter, is a curriculum coordinator for Palmyra School District in Dauphin County. Audrey Rapp is a stay at home mom, while Mildred's son Larry Musselman is a certified public accountant in Gettysburg.

Mildred attributes her ambition to keeping a positive outlook. "The Lord has blessed me with good health," said Mildred. "I really enjoy life and am just not ready to slow down yet."



Lancaster Society 20

On April 6, Lancaster Farm Women Society 20 met at the United Methodist Church, Quarryville, to entertain societies 5 and 15. About 45 members attended.

President Valarie Ferguson conducted the devotions, reading from Luke. After a reading a poem, she closed in prayer.

After the pledge of allegiance to the flag, a short business meeting was held. Members reported on the chicken they had in their childhood homes.

A very humorous and interesting program, Chicken Surprises, was given by Martee Mentzer, who recited joke upon joke about chickens such as why set a hen over boiling water — she lays hard-boiled eggs, of course.

Mentzer brought more than 50 different items featuring chickens such as coverlets, plates, hand towels.

The Sunshine Committee sent three cards. The meeting adjourned after members sang their theme song, "Brighten the Corner."

Easter

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