

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

**Joyce Bupp**



**Ode To March Mud**  
Dark and gloomy, drizzly day  
Fog rolls up from meadow way.  
Seems forever here to stay...  
Mud.

Harbinger of late-March weeks.  
Passage to the house it seeks  
Sometimes in our boots it leaks.  
Mud.

Spring's warming thaws the freeze  
away  
So April's rain grows flowers in May.  
Meanwhile, we mop this mess away...  
Mud.

In it our livelihood is found  
This dark, rich earth, this precious  
ground.  
Just now, a little moisture-bound,  
Mud.

Beloved by our waterfowl  
The geese and ducks moved in for now,  
They seek out puddles, in they file...  
Mud.

It nurtures hosts of polliwogs  
Which hatch in countless soggy bogs,  
And grow up into fat, green frogs.  
Mud.

We roll it, grade it, stone it, too.

So tractors keep on putt-ing through  
This sticky stuff, this gloppy goo...  
Mud.

Cows seems to know exactly where  
To coat it thickest on their hair...  
...where we want to put the milker  
there.  
Mud.

Those who most embrace its joys  
Are gleeful little girls and boys  
Who'd rather slop, than play with toys,  
In mud.

They cook up pies and cakes and such  
With sticks and stones for festive touch:  
"See, Mommy, what I made for lunch!"  
Mud.

Our house is boasting tracks galore

From endless feet across the floor  
Good grief! I have to mop some more.  
Mud.

By mid-July, when heat's our norm  
And drought starts flirting with fields of  
corn  
We might start praying for a thunder-  
storm  
And mud.

So yank on boots and grab a kid  
To dance and play and run through it,  
These puddles scattered out amid  
This mud.

Before moisture depreciates  
I'll try to not so fixate  
But, rather, quite appreciate  
March mud.

**Lebanon County To Hold Dairy Princess  
Informational Pre-Tea April 12**

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — The Lebanon County Dairy Promotion Committee is holding an informational pre-tea on Thurs., April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lebanon County Extension Office.

The Lebanon County Dairy Promotion Committee is looking for enthusiastic girls to promote dairy products throughout the year. The qualifications for dairy princess include being 16-24 years of age, never married, and have no children, be related to the dairy industry or have parents related to the dairy industry, and of course,

have a desire to promote dairy products and the dairy industry.

Girls are also needed to serve as dairy maid (ages 13-16) and Li'l Miss Dairy Princess (ages 4-7).

The 29th Annual Lebanon County Dairy Princess Coronation will be held Saturday, June 2 at the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center at 7:30 p.m. Any girls interested in being part of the Dairy Royalty Team should contact Sherry Bashore at (717) 865-3161.

**Lycoming Needs Dairy  
Pageant Contestants**

WILLIAMSPORT (Lycoming Co.) — Lycoming County is searching for dairy princess and dairy maid candidates.

Dairy Princess contestants must be between the ages of 16 and 24. She, herself, or a parent must be employed in the dairy industry. She could also qualify by owning a 4-H or FFA Dairy Project. She must also be single and never had a child.

Dairy Maid candidates will assist the dairy princess throughout the year. These candidates must be at least 13 years old and have the same qualification of dairy princess candidates.

Any girl interested should call Wanda Derr at (570) 323-4949, Rhonda Fogleman at (570) 546-0714, or Donna Greider at (570) 398-2912 by May 1.

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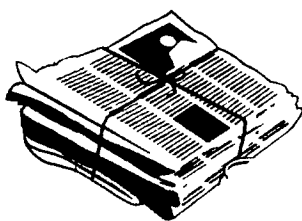
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