

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



Winding down. Wrapping up. Typing the loose ends. Finished.

Unofficially, that's what this Labor Day working-folks salute has evolved to be about. One last vacation trip, one last backyard party, one last picnic before shaking off the lingering laxness of summer, straightening our shoulders, putting our heads erect, and marching forward into fall.

And boy, are most of us ready. Or, to share an observation from a friend: "It's like we've been under siege."

Holding us hostage, of course, has been the seemingly endless onslaught by heat and drought, dust clouds and wildfires, high humidity and near-non-existent rainfall, low commodity prices, low crop yields, and the spectre of skimpy feed supplies for the winter.

Casualties of the siege have been pastures turned to straw, gardens shriveled up (if bugs, beetles, and grasshoppers didn't bite into them first), corn struggling to make ears, skimpy, sad hay crops, and sparse pickin's from many produce patches. How many years are tomatoes and squash scarce around here, for goodness sake?

Through it all, though, there is one constant that never changes,

one absolute that never falters, one standard that can be depended upon, regardless of whatever else is thrown at us.

The weeds are still thriving.

Battling unwanted greenery is an ongoing process, dry and wet years. It's a battle waged in our yard and garden with mulch, hoes, hand-yanking, a heavy-duty hand pruner, and a faithful sidekick spray bottle filled with basic weedkiller.

But during our absence a few days early in the month, the weeks absolutely ran amok. As if challenged to perform one final, glorious assault against the broiling heat and dryness, all the errant, the unyanked, the missed seedlings hiding under leaves of cultivated stuff, bolted into high gear. Almost overnight, weed-trees dotted the veggie patch, shaded the annuals, even established thriving colonies under the thick, shaded and moisture-sapping maple trees, where respectable plants refuse to set root.

A forest of ragweed, laden with sneeze-starting pollen, towered over the perennial border. One corner prettily abloom with roses, daylilies, and black-eyed Susans revolted into a rebel pack of lanky lambs' quarters and rampant foxtail. Mile-a-minute vines

raced through the blueberries, curled like puppies at the feet of the dogwood tree and scattered off into the snowball bushes.

And pokeweed poked its rubbery stalks and wide leaves into everything. It sprang up among fern in the greenhouse and begonias on the front porch. It nestled up to the black-eyed Susans and dug its way up through thick clumps of daylilies. After knocking down a handsome, three-foot pokeweed "hunk" hanging around the zinnias, its clones popped up from the tomato patch to the chrysanthemums and took to sunning with the sunflowers.

In defense of the weeds, however, at least one variety proved to have a positive side through this brutal summer. Just about the time the first melon hills in the garden row had softball-sized fruits on them, the vines began to shrivel and die, attacked by the beetles which spread a wilt fatal to the plants. Diligent efforts in that part of the garden had kept it relatively weed-free.

Other melon plants farther along in the row, despite my efforts, spotted some thriving red-root weeds too big to pull without uprooting everything. But the rough leaves of the weed seemed to attract the melon beetles. They dined on the weeds' leaves — which appeared non the worse for wear — and left the melon vines to yield their tasty fruits.

So while Labor Day weekend represents a salute to working people, a last vacation or picnic fling, return of school buses and football season, it also signals one more thing around here.

Lifespan of our lush, lanky weeds is limited.

And they'll take the bugs with them when they go.

Notes To Dad

by

Fran Alloway

Family Living Educator
Delaware County

Back To School, Dads And Sports

When I asked one of the men in my office what he thought of when I mentioned "back to school," he immediately shouted "football!" He had played football in high school and been an avid fan when his sons had played.

While many of you may not have been high school jocks, sports have played a part in defining who you are if you grew up in the U.S.

Today, organized sports are bigger than ever. Your children will have the option of participating in some sort of sport almost from birth. For many families, "back to school" means after-school practices and Saturdays and sometimes Sundays at the fields. If you have multiple children, it can require the skill of an air traffic controller to schedule transportation, observation time and food issues revolving around these games. It can be downright exhausting! But it can also be fun.

Dads play a pivotal role in developing a healthy attitude toward sports. With the obesity epidemic that has surfaced even among America's children, no one can deny that sports are an excellent way to schedule physical activity into a day. Of course, no one has to play on two soccer teams a week to be fit. Dads have traditionally been the ones to encourage children to practice sports skills between games, tossing balls in the back yard, or shooting hoops.

Little children love this interaction with their fathers. If organized sports are not your thing, activities such as hiking or biking can also be family activities.

Participation in sports has the potential to be a negative experience, depending on the atmos-

phere of the program and pressure felt by the child. My coworker expressed the concern that fathers can try to relive their own experiences through their children, putting pressure on the child to excel. A child who is exposed to repeated failures and who receives criticism without useful feedback is unlikely to thrive in a sport. As children grow up, their relationship with their dads will change the role of the parent in sports.

During the preschool and elementary years, helping children develop basic skills such as running, jumping, kicking, and throwing is important. Sports should be focused on "cooperative" games involving every team member. The emphasis should be on fun, not competition. I remember the T-ball games where every player got on base and the score didn't matter.

As children grow, dads should continue to guide their children toward greater skill achievement through encouragement to practice skills or being a positive role model, some participating in sports themselves. Some dads even take on coaching. Parental involvement usually decreases in adolescence as children move onto school teams and a desire to be with their friends. Parents can still be supportive by attending sporting events and giving positive encouragement.

According to Daniel Perkins, professor of family/youth resiliency and policy at Penn State University, the primary goals of youth sports are to foster the development of general physical competence and to promote physical activity, fun, life skills, sportsmanship, and good health. Find some time in "back to school" to keep active with your kids. Dads, don't let the "soccer moms" have all the fun!

New Jersey Open Beef Show

(Continued from Page B3)

Bootsma.
Best full blooded Limousin 1 Daniel Fick. 2 Mosher Famil Lenape Limousin 3 James Robison
Champion full blood. Daniel Fick
Reserve champion full blood. Mosher Famil Lenape Limousin

RED ANGUS
Early senior heifer calf 1 JH Keifer Farm

SIMMENTAL
Junior heifer calf 1 Shelby Lynn Ranck
2 Sam Case 3 Shelby Lynn Ranck
Champion junior heifer calf Shelby Lynn Ranck
Reserve champion junior heifer calf Sam Case
Early senior heifer calf 1 Elena Poliskiewicz
Champion senior heifer calf Elena Poliskiewicz
Late summer yearling heifer 1 Elena Poliskiewicz
April junior yearling heifers: 1 Shelby Lynn Ranck 2 Sally Peck 3 Sally Peck.
Champion intermediate heifer Shelby Lynn Ranck
Reserve champion intermediate heifer Sally Peck
March junior yearling heifer 1 Shelby Lynn Ranck
Early junior yearling heifer 1 Jesse Poliskiewicz
Champion junior heifer. Shelby Lynn Ranck
Reserve champion junior heifer: Jesse Poliskiewicz
Senior yearling heifer 1 Jesse Poliskiewicz
Champion senior heifer Jesse Poliskiewicz
Champion grand heifer Shelby Lynn Ranck
Reserve champion grand heifer: Sally Peck
Cow/calf calf 1 Shelby Lynn Ranck 2 Charles DeLade 3 Jesse Poliskiewicz
Champion grand cow/calf Shelby Lynn Ranck
Reserve champion grand cow/calf. Charles DeLade
Junior bull calf 1 Elena Poliskiewicz 2 Jesse Poliskiewicz.
Champion junior bull calf. 1 Elena Poliskiewicz
Reserve champion junior bull calf. Jesse Poliskiewicz
March junior yearling bulls 1 Shelby Lynn Ranck
Champion junior bull Shelby Lynn Ranck
Champion grand bull Shelby Lynn Ranck.
Reserve champion grand bull Elena Po-

Poliskiewicz
Sussex County special. 1. Sally Peck. 2. Charles DeLade. 3. Sam Case
N.J. special: 1. Sally Peck 2. Charles DeLade
Best three head: 1. Shelby Lynn Ranck.
Best five head: 1. Shelby Lynn Ranck. 2. Jesse Poliskiewicz.
Breeders herd — four head, one bull and three heifers: 1. Shelby Lynn Ranck 2. Jesse Poliskiewicz
Pair of calves: 2. Charles DeLade 3. Elena Poliskiewicz
Pair of yearlings: 1. Shelby Lynn Ranck. 2. Sally Peck.

STEER
Lightweight 1. Gwen Wagner 2. Sally Peck. 3. Sam Case.
Champion lightweight: Gwen Wagner
Reserve champion lightweight: Sally Peck.
Middleweight light: 1. Paul Wagner 2. Jay Underhill 3. Cody Gerlach
Champion light medium. Paul Wagner
Reserve champion light medium: Jay Underhill
Middleweight heavy: 1. Gwen Wagner 2. Shelby Lynn Ranck. 3. Melanie Sinon
Champion heavy medium. Gwen Wagner
Reserve champion heavy medium: Shelby Lynn Ranck.
Light heavyweight: 1. Courtney Morns 2. Megan Lawlor 3. T.J. Banght
Champion light heavy: Courtney Morns
Reserve light heavy: Megan Lawlor.
Heavyweight: 1. Jon Petry 2. Sean Sinon 3. Timothy Snook

Champion heavyweight: Jon Petry.
Reserve champion heavyweight: Sean Sinon.
Champion — Class 13: Gwen Wagner.
Reserve — Class 13: Shelby Lynn Ranck.
Pair of steers (same farm): 1. Gwen Wagner. 2. Courtney Morns 3. Kelly Von der Lieth.
Sussex County special: 1. Jon Petry. 2. Timothy Snook. 3. Mark Van Boerum.
ALL BREED COMPETITION SUPREME CHAMPION FEMALE
Heather Hoffman
SUPREME CHAMPION BULL
Durham Valley Farm
SUPREME CHAMPION COW/CALF
Shelby Lynn Ranck
SHOWMANSHIP
9 and under: 1. Charlotte Case. 2. Kayli Sinon. 3. Christopher Snook.
10 to 11 years old: 1. Elena Poliskiewicz 2. Paul Hund. 3. Melanie Sinon
12 to 13 years old: 1. Jay Underhill. 2. Sam Case. 3. Cody Gerlach.
4 to 14 years old: 1. Kachine Dixon. 2. Courtney Morns. 3. Kyle Jorntmsa.
15 to 16 years old: 1. Hannah Case 2. Bradley Klemm. 3. Matthew Von der Lieth.
17 to 21 years old: 1. Jennifer Hower. 2. Jesse Poliskiewicz. 3. Cathy Levan
Over 21 years old: 1. Deirdra Sinon 2. Kenianne Ranck. 3. Gwen Wagner.

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