


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



Sit! Stay!
Don't you dare come out of that hole in the ground. This message is a public service announcement for the general groundhog population of the area, of anticipation of tomorrow's holiday. Do not, repeat, DO NOT, come out of your burrow. DO NOT see your shadow. DO NOT cause us to have six more weeks of winter.

Fat chance that'll work. Then again, what can it hurt? Winter this year—not the official calendar-date start of the season but the actual nasty, bitter weather—blasted in a good four or five weeks sooner than most years. We've had rain storms, sleet, nor'easters, southwesterers, snow squalls, 10-inch-snow blankets, light ice, heavy ice, and pipes frozen that haven't seen ice in several years. Doesn't it stand

to reason that we could hope (plead, maybe?) for it to break earlier than usual as well? So we don't want to take any chances with groundhogs seeing their shadows and scooting, scared-stiff, back to bed until mid-March. This is all quite in contrast to just a year ago, brought back to mind vividly one day last week. In the midst of tossing stacks of old newspapers onto one of the heifer pens bedding pack, a headline caught my eye. The chuckle I got from it countered my shivering while pausing to ponder the big, bold newspaper letters. "Groundhog or no, we need some snow," pleaded the area publication quickly snagged before it sailed into the midst of the weaned calves, gleefully kicking their heels while they raced through the layer of freshly-tossed paper. Warnings were already going out early last February, regarding the dire straits of the

ground moisture conditions around the region, and the drought potential for the upcoming summer months. Recall, too, that temperatures for last January averaged—averaged!—36 degrees, which is some 5 degrees above the normal average for the first month of the year. And, like the January of 2001 before that, remained practically barren of moisture, either rain or the more seasonal snow-falls. So, here we are, a year later, having bid farewell to a January of extended, prolonged deep-freeze living, accessorized with the likes of burst water lines, stalled vehicles, multiple vehicle skid-slide-crash pileups, Minnesota-like-ice-fishing conditions and rapidly disappearing stacks of firewood.

So, consider this: what groundhog in its right little mind would even consider poking a furry face out of its nice, snug, no-wind-chill-effect, underground burrow? But, just in case one would make an attempt to stagger out of hibernation to encounter a scary shadow, let's not take any chances. So, please join our Six-More-Weeks-Of-Winter, Anti-Groundhog, Stomping Session. Go find your nearest groundhog hole and stomp several big chunks of ice down in as far as you can shove it without getting lodged in there with a family of furry rodents. Do it today. Tomorrow may be too late.

Ladies Day Program Set For Pa. Holstein Convention


STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Ladies Day program has been set for the PA Holstein Convention in Bethlehem on February 20. The Ladies Program will begin a short distance from the Holiday Inn, at the Hotel Bethlehem, with morning snacks and beverages. After the official welcome, the ladies program will move to the Moravian Museum of Bethlehem. The museum is located in the 1741 Gemeinhaus (Community House), the oldest building in Bethlehem and a National Historic Landmark. The group will congregate in the Terrace Room at the Hotel Bethlehem, after their historic

tour, to take in the words of Dr. Leo Frangipane, who will be speaking on "Focusing on the Right Stuff." Frangipane has been a practicing surgeon for almost a quarter of a century, sharing his life with patients who face disease, tough decisions, fear, anger, even death. Frangipane received a B.S. from St. Joseph's University and his M.D. from Temple University School of Medicine. He speaks nationally and internationally on issues of wellness, and is a consultant to healthcare organizations across the U.S.

A well-prepared luncheon prepared by the Hotel Bethlehem staff will provide the energy needed to complete the day for the ladies at the Holstein Convention. For the remainder of the afternoon ladies of the dairy industry will be set loose to "gaze" at the various small shops that line Main Street of Historic Bethlehem. Busses will be returning to the Gateway Convention Center at 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. If you have questions about the Ladies Day Program, contact Andrea Semmel at (610) 799-3489.

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