


On Being a Farm Wife

(and other hazards)

Joyce Bupp



Lately, it's been feeling like we live in the midst of a family of squabbling youngsters.

Their names are Winter, Spring, Summer, and In-Between, offspring of Mother Nature and Father Time. Another child, Autumn, is on an extended tour of the other side of the world.

Winter is the early riser, first up in the morning, bouncing out of bed with a gust of cold air and scattering snow about as he rips through the place. He tosses around loose twigs, leaf residue, stray bits of litter and generally makes a mess about the place before disappearing off into the neighborhood. And, that's not dust settling behind his wake, but probably frost.

Winter, the rabble-rouser of

the group, has really tried Mother Nature's patience this year. Yet he has his loving side, bringing the lifegiving gift of clear, plentiful water to Mother's extended family.

Spring is the gentle child, softly creeping onto Mother's lap singing sweet bird songs and carrying a bouquet of daffodils. She's been especially busy lately rescuing her signature early blooms from coatings of snow repeatedly dumped on them by her mischievous and untiring brother.

One of Spring's favorite activities is cloring. She particularly favors green, using it lavishly, accented with yellows, pinks, and a smidgeon of crimson on some early tree leaf-buds. Once in awhile, Spring plays the normal

child and throws the temper tantrum act. She'll storm around throwing rain and wind and occasionally a bit of sleet snatched from brother Winter's stash.

And then revert to a big, cray-on-box rainbow smile that just melts everyone's heart.

Summer stays in her room most of the time right now, creating elaborate game plans for her big appearance later on. As evenings lengthen, Summer will no doubt spend more time around. For now, she mostly just wafts through on occasional late afternoons, dropping hints of her future starring role, then vanishing off into stunning pastel sunsets.

Like many families, Mother has the peacemaker, little brother In-Between. In Between tries to unite the crew when they get into heated tug-of-war games over temperatures and conditions. Sometimes In-Between bridges their extremes rather smoothly. Other times, he barely manages a brief interference run as the squabbling siblings struggle for the same space at the same time.

Spring showed me a surprise a few days ago when we spent some time together outside, cleaning up the residue from last year's garden. It took a second look at a dirty, whitish clump among the dead stems and leaves

before I realized it was not an old piece of wind-blown paper. Instead, the clump was a wadded-together section of floating row cover, apparently hidden there by Winter under his heavy snow and ice cover.

A remembrance came back.

The small section of lightweight protective covering had been tucked about mid-November around a tiny, but vigorously thriving, patch of looseleaf lettuce. The gauzy white fabric kept leaves fresh and crisp, even when weighted down by an early snow dumped on it when Winter rudely shoved aside his bright and breezy sister Autumn.

Retrieving the flattened folds of row cover, I was amazed to find beneath it a healthy lettuce plant which had survived through all Winter's worst behaviour. Although somewhat squashed, and an anemic shade

of green, it was still very much alive.

Figuring that the garden would be tilled up just about the time the lettuce plant would recover from Winter's harsh treatment, I dug it up and moved it to a safer spot in the flower beds. Spring thought such a hardly plant was worth saving for seed to plant for Autumn's garden.

But, even as we gardeners eagerly rushed outside to cavort with Spring, planting potatoes and onions, peas, and radishes, Winter dashed through our work with another nasty, white disruption just a few days ago. We hope he didn't land a fatal blow on our now-uncovered lettuce survivor.

Frankly, most of us have just about had it with this naughty Winter.

We suggest that Mother send him to his room for an extended "time out."

Home School Day At Landis Valley Museum

LANDIS VALLEY (Lancaster Co.) — Landis Valley Museum will host Home School Day on Wednesday, April 16 from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. During this all-day event, the museum provides Home School students and their families an opportunity to explore the museum's crossroads village, and participate in educational hands-on activities at their own pace. Landis Valley Museum renders a perfect environment that encourages home school

families to learn and interact together with Pennsylvania Dutch Heritage.

Arrival time is 9 a.m. with activities scheduled from 9:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. Each participating family will receive a schedule of events. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$7 for adults, \$10 for students ages 6 to 17. Children under 6 are free. For additional information, or to register by phone, call Nancy Landis at (717) 569-0401, ext. 254.

We Salute Our Farming Industry

TOUGH & NIMBLE



When Guil Waddell isn't using his AGCO ST45 compact tractor to mow grass or haul round bales on his 25-acre horse ranch, he's putting it to work as owner of GTW Landscaping in Rougemont, NC

"With the price of gas the way it is, I don't want to be towing a 5,000- to 7,000-pound tractor around on a trailer," he says. "That's one reason I like the AGCO compact so well. It has enough power and weight to handle heavy 3-point hitch implements; yet it's light enough to haul around on the job."

With an engine horsepower rating of 44 1 and shipping weight of more than 3,700 pounds, the ST45 is the heavyweight powerhouse of compact tractors. To learn more about the productivity, reliability and operator comfort that only an AGCO ST series tractors can provide, stop by and see us today



Guil Waddell
Owner
GTW Landscaping
Rougemont NC

AGCO
you've gotta drive one.

HERNLEY'S FARM EQUIP., INC.
Elizabethtown, Pa.
717-367-8867

B.H.M. FARM EQUIP. INC.
Annville, Pa.
717-867-2211

B. EQUIP., INC.
Waynesboro, Pa.
717-762-3193

FARMERS EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY
Airville, Pa.
717-862-3967

WERTZ FARM & POWER EQUIPMENT, INC.
PA Rt. 516,
Glen Rock, Pa.
717-235-0111

C.J. WONSIDLER BROS.
Quakertown, Pa.
215-536-7523
New Tripoli, Pa.
215-767-7611

Oley, Pa.
215-987-6257

GRUMELLI FARM SERVICE
Quarryville, Pa.
717-786-7318

UNCLAMORED FREIGHT CO. LIQUIDATION SALES INC.

6 PC. BEDROOM SET In Oak Or Cherry Includes Bed Set, Nightstand, Highboy, Lowboy, Dresser, and Mirror Reg. Ret. \$3000.00 Our Price \$1729.95 CLOSEOUT \$1089⁹⁵	STUDENT LOFT BED Reg. Ret. \$1699.95 Our Price \$689.95 SPECIAL \$599⁹⁵	VINYL SWIVEL RECLINER w/OTTOMAN Black & Taupe Reg. Ret. \$659.95 Our Price \$339.95 CLOSEOUT \$209⁹⁵	
6 PC. BEDROOM SET Black and Brass w/2 Nightstands Reg. Ret. \$1229.95 Our Price \$449.95 CLOSEOUT \$369⁰⁴	Sofa & Loveseat Lucky with Painted Stripes Reg. Ret. \$2100.00 Our Price \$899.95 Final Closeout \$599.03 CLOSEOUT REFUSAL \$499⁰³	SLIDING TWO DOOR CURIO 48W x 16D x 80H Two Sliding Front Doors w/Beveled Glass Cherry Finish Mirrored Back Lighted Interior Reg. Ret. \$1889.95 Our Price \$1049.95 CLOSEOUT \$429⁰⁴ UNDER WHOLESALE	
3 WAY LAMP 31" High Reg. Ret. \$119.95 Our Price \$59.95 CLOSEOUT \$29⁹⁵	TWIN/TWIN BUNK BED Black & White Reg. Ret. \$599.95 Our Price \$159.95 SPECIAL \$149⁹⁵	FUTON CLOSEOUT In Black Comes w/8" Mattress Reg. Ret. \$639.95 Our Price \$259.95 CLOSEOUT \$139⁹⁵	
7 PC. DINING ROOM Double Pedestal Table, 6 Side Chairs Reg. Ret. \$1999.95 Our Price \$849.95 CLOSEOUT \$599⁹⁵	BUNK BED Honey Pine Reg. Ret. \$569.95 Our Price \$279.95 CLOSEOUT \$159⁹⁵	SOFA DUAL RECLINER LOVESEAT DUAL RECLINER Blue & Burgundy Reg. Ret. \$2300.00 Our Price \$1299.95 FACTORY SPECIAL \$899.04	
YOUTH/MATES BED SET Bed Box w/Drawers Bookcase Headboard and 2 Nightstands Reg. Ret. \$329.95 Our Price \$269.95 CLOSEOUT \$179⁹⁵	SECTIONAL SPECIAL Tahoe Evergreen Only Reg. Ret. \$2100.00 CLOSEOUT \$649.88 Final Closeout \$599.03 Closeout Refusal \$499⁰³	SOFA & LOVESEAT All Velvet Wood Trim Reg. Ret. \$1,889.95 Our Price \$869.95 CLOSEOUT \$569⁹⁵	
SWIVEL ROCKER RECLINER Advertised on TV for \$599.95 Reg. Ret. \$979.95 Our Price \$549.95 DEALER REFUSAL \$259⁹⁵	5 PC. BEDROOM MEDIUM OAK Reg. Ret. \$1800.00 Our Price \$909.95 CLOSEOUT \$399⁰⁴	OPEN SUNDAYS SERIA MATTRESS & BOXSPRING 159.03 199.03 249.03 299.03	
FUTON BUNK BED Twin/Double, Comes in Black & White with 8" Futon Mattress Reg. Ret. \$869.95 Our Price \$329.95 CLOSEOUT \$249⁹⁵	ROCKER RECLINER 2 Styles Reg. Ret. \$799.95 Our Price \$399.95 CLOSEOUT \$259⁹⁵	CORSICANA BUDDING 99.95 129.95 179.95 189.95	
COMPUTER DESK Your Choice Maple & Oak/Black Available in Maple without Hutches Closeout \$189.95 Reg. Ret. \$899.95 Our Price \$499.95 CLOSEOUT \$229.95 Under Wholesale	3019 Hempland Road, Lancaster 717-397-6241 Stores in: LANCASTER • YORK • CARLISLE • LEBANON STORE HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 9-9 • Sat. 9-6; Sunday 12 to 5 PM CLOSED EASTER DAY • No Refunds • All Sales Final • Cash & Carry For purchases with a check, bring drivers license and phone numbers FINANCING AVAILABLE Not responsible for typographical errors. We reserve the right to substitute gift items.		