

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



Whatever happened to the "paperless society?"

Remember that promise we heard long ago, when computers were still cutting-edge technology? Back in that era before cyber-babble and the ability to instantly e-mail jokes were not part of our everyday lifestyle. Whatever happened to that paperless society we were promised by the advent of doing everything by computer?

Computers communicating with each other would virtually eliminate paper. Computers communicating with each other would save lots of trees. Yeah. Right.

Reality is that computers enable us to not only to quickly communicate with each other, they allow us to produce hard copy proof of it. And, we can re-

licate it umpteen times over with the mere finger-punch of a key.

Now we seamlessly team computer-generated communication with reach-out-and-send-something FAX technology. So, in addition to cluttering our own desks, but can efficiently spread the paper piles to the desks of other folks.

Which goes a long way toward explaining why, at a pre-dawn hour too early to battle paper wars stress, I was nevertheless scrimmaging with two-days-worth of "paperless" pileup. The stuff always seems to accumulate faster than usual anytime something prevents me from tackling it immediately.

Occasionally I make the mistake of ignoring the pileup for a day or two. Inevitably, there will

be some timely item buried at the bottom that needed attention days before. Such experiences have beaten me into at least trying to sort and shuffle the desk-mess to more organized piles.

And it is always with a good deal of self-satisfaction to be able to zap about half of it, right off the bat, to the great "delete" button of life. Otherwise known as the trash can.

Promptly thus deleted are most sale flyers of any kind and practically all fund-raiser pleas. Tossed onto the recycling pile are publications we never ordered, dealing with interests we don't pursue, like the glitzy golf and cruising magazines which stuffed the mailbox for awhile.

Equally treated are multiple credit card offers which arrive on a daily basis. I'm never sure — should one be insulted or complemented for the abundance with which companies so readily offer us the use of their money. For a price, of course, generally buried in very fine print.

At the top of this particular morning's paperwork-pile battle was a survey. Surveys meet with mixed review here, dependent on the mood of whoever opens them or how far down in the pile they get buried. Short, relevant, uncomplicated ones that can be quickly answered, may be.

Wordy, detailed, pages of survey questions generally relegate themselves to heifer-pen bedding.

Some paper pileups contain an inordinate number of catalogs, offering anything from tractor-trailers to office supplies to safety gear. An occasional one wins a berth in our highly-organized catalog library, a stack which snuggles with dust bunnies under a desk.

Communications dealing specifically with our dairy and crops marketing earn keeper status. Ditto for newsletters, business-related informational materials, and periodicals relevant to what we do, all put aside for later study.

Naturally, most welcome and carefully safeguarded are the items we all really want to find in paperwork piles, things like personal letters, greeting cards, checks. Granted, bills are greeted with less enthusiasm, but nevertheless command respectful attention. Likewise for communications from insurance carriers, taxing entities, and the like.

Based on our years of experience since the original promises of the paperless society, we are convinced of two certainties.

Paper company stock was probably a good investment at some point.

And, the stuff sure soaks up a lot of cattle waste.

Vendors Invited To Delmarva Chicken Festival

DOVER, Del. — Artisans seeking an opportunity to showcase their wares and commercial vendors (non-food) wanting to share their product with an estimated 20,000 festival visitors, are invited to participate in the 54th Delmarva Chicken Festival, June 20-21, in Dover.

An arts and craft show will be staged in Memorial gym on the campus of Delaware State University (DSU) in Dover. Vendors will receive a 10' x 10' indoor space. Tables, chairs, and other equipment must be provided by the vendor. Show hours will be 11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily.

The home and trade show, coordinated by Kent County Tourism, host for the 2003 Delmarva Chicken Festival, offers 10' x 10' indoor spaces in the Martin Luther King Student Center at DSU. Draped spaces will include an eight-foot table and two chairs. The show will be open to the public between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Applications for the arts and crafts show or home and trade show are available from Kent County Tourism, P.O. Box 576, Dover, Delaware 19901, telephone (800) 233-KENT or (302) 734-1736.

Delmarva Chicken Festival is sponsored annually by Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. All activities are open to the public. Admission is free.

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