

## On Being a Farm Wife

(and other hazards)

Joyce Bupp



It's that delightful time of year. Breezes pick up and evenings cool down for comfortable sleeping under a light cover. Chrysanthemums burst into colorful, long-lasting blossoms. And the new lineup of fall television shows debut, including the latest in "reality" show programming.

Frankly, we could hardly care less about reality television.

Our remote is heavily worn toward The Weather Channel and informational/public/education-oriented programming. No doubt we are in a small minority, whose "reality" watching focuses on the evening news. Still, given the amazing popularity of reality television, perhaps these producers are missing the boat.

How about a farming "reality" series? The possibilities are endless, incorporating drama, education, human interest, geography, science, education, not to mention popular animal humor.

We could open the season with a segment labeled "Double Trouble," detailing the drama, cuteness and frustration of three sets — count 'em — of twin calves born here in the last month. Several of them weighed in at about half the size of a normal Holstein calf. "Double Trouble" is that each set was one male and one female.

In cattle, a heifer (girl calf) born twin to a bull (boy calf) lacks reproductive organs about 95 percent of the time, making

her naturally neutered. And, cows that deliver twins almost always have health complications of some sort, especially during the extreme heat of recent weeks. That's reality.

Then we could follow with our own sort of NASCAR excitement segment, featuring The Farmer as he recently raced with the clock and a rain deluge to get from one vendor to another for a much-needed haybale part. To his relief — and the dealer's sales staff irritation no doubt — he dashed through their door just as they were locking up and turning off the lights. Hero of that segment is the parts specialist who cheerfully hung around long enough to pull from stock the repair piece he needed.

Our "X-Ag" segment will showcase farm-team extreme sports. Included are competitions of find-and-chase-heifers cross-country relays (run in early-morning fog), the fencing finals in which contestants race with the clock in digging post holes and stretching wire, and the hay-baling/hauling/stacking in a 98-degree barn iron-man play-offs.

Every reality series needs a bit of "love" angle, plus some affection and cuteness. "Reality Farming" will periodically touch

on the love-life triangle of our turkey trio and the adorably-cute litter of roly-poly kittens endangering walking at the calf barn.

We also plan to include a hilarious piece based on farm banking, with our characters running around in typical sitcom silliness trying to pay their bills based on 25-year-low recent milk prices and income from a rain-sodden and badly-damaged summer wheat crop.

Our "reality" series will even have a cooking piece. Current plan is to include directions for simple and delicious basics. We'll start with a recent dessert speciality which appeared on our kitchen country recently, Fresh Peach Crisp.

This tasty speciality originated in the kitchen of our daughter...who shipped it home with The Farmer...who parked it on the front seat of his farm pickup...which had recently been vacated by the crew of grandchildren...who had released the front passenger-side seat to get out, but who had not completely pushed the seat back into lock position...and the seat flipped front...and the peach dessert flipped upside down onto the floor mat. The Farmer simply picked up the floor mat and flipped the whole thing back over, then parked it in the kitchen.

This was, by the way, all unknown to me when I happily cut a wedge for breakfast the next morning. And it was delicious. However, it needed to be renamed. Something like Peach Flip. Or, Peach Crunch.

On second thought, this "reality" series will probably fall flat on its face.

Just too much reality.

## How To Rear Boys

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Dr. James Dobson, a recognized authority on Christian family issues, can be seen live via satellite on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 301 St. Thomas Road, Lancaster.

The cost is \$5 per person or \$7.50 per couple. Child care will be available. Dr. Dobson will be discussing the important issues involved in "Bringing Up Boys," the title of his latest book.

For tickets or more information, call the church office, (717) 569-3241.



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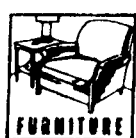
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## AgrAbility Announces \$100 Winners From Ag Progress Days

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Three industrious visitors to Penn State's Ag Progress Days (APD) recently received a \$100 check in the mail.

The prize winners participated in a contest sponsored by AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians, which provides support to farmers and farm family members struggling with a long term illness or injury. The prize winners include Warren Hudson of Wenonah, N.J.; Dale Leighow of Catawissa; and Omar Lapp, Myerstown.

The contest required entrants to visit with 10 of 14 identified "AgrAbility Partners" who also exhibited at APD. Participating partners included Agromedicine, American Trauma Society, Best Line Leasing, Bergman Manufacturing, Blazing Technologies, DeLaval, Genex Cooperative, PA Grange, Hoobers' Equipment, Jiffy Hitch

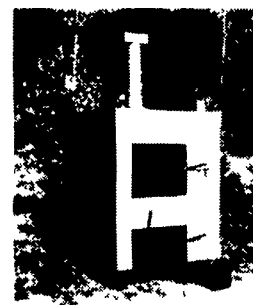
Systems, Land O'Lakes, Ryder Supply Co., Valley Equipment Supply, and Walters Enterprises. Entry forms were available in the APD editions of Lancaster Farming or could be picked up during the event at the APD Information Booth and from any of the participating partner locations.

AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians assists farmers and farm family members who are coping with a disability or health condition. The project is funded through a grant of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is conducted in Pennsylvania through a partnership between Easter Seals Central Pennsylvania and Penn State Cooperative Extension.

For more information regarding AgrAbility services, call toll free within PA to (866) 238-4434 or visit the following website: AgExtEd.cas.psu.edu/agrab/

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