

Country EXTRA

Farm Life 'Enlightens' Small-Town Girl

NOBODY told me the facts of life—the facts of farm life, that is.

I was just a small-town girl, not really from a city but certainly not from a farm. Occasionally I caught glimpses of something going on out there in "farm world", something that maybe I should be finding out about...but no one wanted to tell me.

Well, sure enough, when I grew up, guess what I married. That's



right, a farmer. Even his *name* is *Farmer!* I walked on the farm blind as a bat and innocent as a newborn

By Martha Lou Farmer

babe, and got experienced the hard way. Boy, did I get enlightened!

Today I know a good deal about the real facts of farm life. So here is just a partial glimpse into the facts of

life nobody ever told me about:

Nobody ever told me that farm wives develop loud voices from competing with John Deeres and Massey-Fergusons.

Nobody ever told me that pigs could get out of Alcatraz.

Nobody ever told me that "lamb-



ing time" is a polite term for a round-the-clock marathon to see how long one can go without sleep.

Nobody ever told me never, *never*, NEVER let the clutch out quickly when pulling your husband on a hay wagon.

Nobody ever told me that dairy cows don't have weekends and holidays off.

Nobody ever told me that a husband's "You did a great job, Sweetheart!" really means "Now that you've finally learned how, I want you to do the disking for the next 2 weeks."

Nobody ever told me that a farm woman's figure comes from regularly throwing bales of hay to livestock and carrying sacks of feed.

Nobody ever told me that a farmer believes in eating only real food. "Real food" is lots of it, prepared only in his kitchen, three times a day.

Nobody ever told me that a farm wife is the best "fetch-it boy" ever devised (e.g., "Can you fetch that from the implement dealer?").

Nobody ever told me that calves can be born backwards.

Nobody ever told me that farm wives are exempt from the minimum wage.

Learned "Pluses", Too

Now, don't conclude that the facts of farm life are all bad. There are compensations that make it all worthwhile—but nobody told me about them either.

Nobody ever told me that freshly cut hay has the sweetest fragrance on earth.

Nobody ever told me that gamboling, woolly lambs could charm the socks off a statue.

Nobody ever told me that freshly churned butter on hot homemade

WANT MORE? This article comes from a recent issue of *Farm Wife News*. Each issue of FWN is packed with articles for, about and by farm and ranch women. You can get a sample copy for \$2.00 or a year's subscription (11 issues) for \$11.95 from FARM WIFE NEWS, Suite 236X, Box 572, Milwaukee WI 53201.

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bread is food fit for a king.

Nobody ever told me what farm-fresh milk tastes like.

Nobody ever told me that peepers would serenade me.

Nobody ever told me that learning to drive a contrary tractor would make me proud enough to pop my flannel-shirt buttons.

Nobody ever told me that a barn, heavy with the smells of straw and old manure and ancient, hand-hewn beams, could be beautiful.

Tan Is Envious

Nobody ever told me that those hours in the sun would give me a tan my city cousins would envy.

Nobody ever told me that kids who learn to do farm chores grow up to be responsible, levelheaded adults who are a joy to work with.

Nobody ever told me that patchwork squares of green corn and golden wheat would surround me with beauty on a summer's day.

Nobody ever told me that cheery, twittering bird song would fill my outdoor hours with melody.

Nobody ever told me that an evening's walk with my husband across the fields would make the day worthwhile.

Nobody told me that the one who helps things grow grows close to God.

So, ladies, now you know the facts of farm life. You have been initiated into the secrets of barn, meadow, tractor and pasture. You have been shown its hardships and invited to share its joys.

Have at it, girls! Now you can never say, "But nobody told me..."

What Tour's Best? We Asked Experts!

Continued from Country Extra, Page 8, March 1, issue.

tour several "barnhouses".

3. They liked the friendliness of the Swiss people: "They made us feel so welcome...they seemed glad we came...they were so eager to show us their places."

4. They found Switzerland so "peaceful". One said, "The tour had an amazing, soothing effect on me."

5. "After we took the trip, we couldn't believe you could offer that kind of tour—including air fare, hotel, transportation, breakfast every morning, the specially arranged farm visits and all—for just \$997," said one couple. Another said, "We went to Switzerland with you for less than friends spent for a week in Florida!"

6. "We liked the fact that your tour was just 7 days," said many tour members. "We can get a neighbor to handle our chores for only 1 week."

7. "We appreciated spending the entire week in one hotel, which we began calling 'home'," several said.

8. "We liked being headquartered in a small, family-owned hotel in a rural town," we were told. "It was such a quaint, friendly little mountain village that we could go for walks at night and feel perfectly safe..."

9. "We enjoyed the rural roads we traveled there. Your buses kept taking us along winding narrow roads through the beautiful countryside."

10. "Your fall tour was planned at the *perfect* time of year to see and appreciate Switzerland—the autumn colors were at their peak."

SOUND GOOD? If this sounds like the kind of tour you'd like to take, you can! We're running only *two tours* this fall... both to *Switzerland*, because that's what our past tour members say they enjoyed most... each is for 7 days, *Sept. 16-24, and Sept. 23-Oct 1. Both include all the features described above... and we're still offering them at the same price, just \$997 per person!*

Join us this year, for all the reasons

given here by farm and ranch people who joined us in previous years.

For a full-color brochure giving you a complete day-by-day itinerary of this fall's tour, call our toll-free number 1-800/558-1013 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., CT, Mon.-Fri. Ask for Tracy. (In Wisconsin, dial 1-800/242-6065.) Or write to World Wide Farm Forums, Dept. CX, Box 572, Milwaukee WI 53201.



THIS CHARMING hotel will be your home for 7 days if you join our fall tour to beautiful Switzerland, the country that farmers and ranchers say they like best to visit.