

Schroader, Kathy



From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 9:13 AM
To: Euler, Gordon; Alvarez, Jose
Cc: Schroader, Kathy
Subject: FW: Life on the five acre farm

FYI and for the index. Thanks.

Oliver

From: Carol Levanen [<mailto:cnldental@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2015 11:27 AM
To: Stewart, Jeanne; Madore, David; Mielke, Tom; Orjiako, Oliver; Susan Rasmussen; Leah Higgins; Rick Dunning; Rita Dietrich; Jerry Olson; Fred Pickering; Jim Malinowski; Frank White; Benjamin Moss; Lonnie Moss; Melinda Zamora; Nick Redinger; Curt Massie; Marcus Becker; Zachary McIsaac; Carol Levanen; Clark County Citizens United Inc.
Subject: Life on the five acre farm

Dear Councilors,
Small farms were such a big part of country life.....**Country** magazine catches the past, and the future, in this article.
Sincerely, Carol Levanen, CCCU, Inc.

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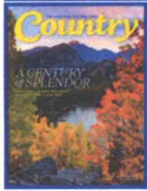
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I Thank God For Country Life

This farm girl through and through will never forget that home is the best place on earth.

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Aleah catches up on the barnyard news and visits her favorite cows when she comes home.

Story by Aleah Bright, Monroe, Washington

Sitting in my grandparents' yard in the middle of August, I gain a new appreciation for the joy of growing up in the country.

As my grandma and I watch the clouds cruise by on the summer breeze, she seems to be looking past them and back into her childhood. "It reminds me of a summer day out in the hay field when I was a little girl," she says. I smile and think what a blessing it is to enjoy the same pleasures she experienced nearly 80 years earlier.

Whether it's the sound of rain falling on the roof on a cold winter night or the smell of Mother's cooking drifting through the valley as my sister Maggie and I do evening chores, my memories of growing up in the country will last a lifetime. Though these things seem commonplace, I am beginning to realize that the little moments truly matter the most.

My parents run a small family farm on our grandparents' 5 acres. Maggie and I have been involved in 4-H, showing dairy cows and pygmy goats, since I was 8 and she was 6. We are country girls through

and through and have spent countless hours playing in the dirt, making paths through tall grass, cuddling with barn kittens and lying in the pasture with one of our sweet Jersey calves.

Caring for our animals and doing other chores have taught me the value of hard work. There is no better way to start your morning than milking a cow and then coming inside for a home-cooked breakfast.

Being raised with strong family values, I learned that you may not always get what you want and must live without things you might like to have. Instead of watching movies and playing video games, I found things to do outdoors that were always more rewarding.

I am now 19 and off to college, but fortunately school is close enough so I can get back to the country on weekends. I realize how much I miss the simplicity every time I come home. Mother will have a big dinner cooking; Maggie and Dad will be telling me about how much the grass has grown, what pasture the cows are turned out on and how much milk Mabel is producing. I soak it all in and enjoy our family's way of being entertained by the littlest happenings and mishaps.

"And I would love to watch Daddy work," Grandma continues. "He always whistled when he worked, you know." Then I hear my sister calling me, saying it's time to do chores and go in for dinner.

I check on Jack, my big steer, and the heifers to make sure they have water. Maggie and I walk back to the house. Before going in, I pause to get one last glimpse of the day.

It's still warm out, frogs are starting to croak and a few of the brightest stars are visible in the new night sky. I thank God for this beautiful world and country life.

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