

American Life in Poetry

The Warm Joys Of A Dog In The Bed

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

"Poor Richard's Almanac" said, "He that lieth down with dogs shall rise up with fleas," but that hasn't kept some of us from sleeping with our dogs. Here's a poem about the pleasure of that, by Joyce Sidman, who lives and sleeps in Montana. Her book, "Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night," won a 2011 Newbery Honor Award.

DOG IN BED

Nose tucked under tail,
you are a warm, furred planet
centered in my bed.
All night I orbit, tangle-limbed,
in the slim space
allotted to me.
If I accidentally
bump you from sleep,
you shift, groan,
drape your chin on my hip.
O, that languid, movie-star drape!
I can never resist it.
Digging my fingers into your fur,
kneading,
I wonder:
How do you dream?
What do you adore?
Why should your black silk ears
feel like happiness?
This is how it is with love.
Once invited,
it steps in gently,
circles twice,
and takes up as much space
as you will give it.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright © 2003 by Joyce Sidman, whose most recent book of poems is *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature*, Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2011. Poem reprinted from *The World According to Dog*, Houghton Mifflin, 2003, by permission of Joyce Sidman and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2013 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

* * *

Demand For Locally Produced, Processed Meat On The Rise

BROOKINGS — Consumers are more interested than ever in purchasing locally grown food — and that includes meat explained Shannon Sand, Livestock Business Management Field Specialist.

"In recent years a consumer driven movement to know where their food comes from has evolved. This movement is anecdotal evidence of greater demand for locally produced meats," Sand said, adding that according to a 2007 study, direct-to-consumer sales only accounted for 0.4 percent of total agricultural sales.

Sand said support for local animal products is not surprising given the value animal agriculture can bring to communities, particularly in a state like South Dakota.

"Animals provide nutrients for cropland and can make productive use of land where crops do not grow well. By processing locally, farmers and ranchers can capture a greater portion of the revenue stream," Sand said.

In 1997, locally produced farm products in the U.S. accounted for \$551 million dollars in sales. By 2007 sales jumped to \$928.9 million — even accounting for inflation this is an increase of 59 percent.

"Among all vegetable and melon farmers 44.1 percent sold directly to consumers in 2007, while only 6.9 percent of livestock producers sold directly to consumers. Sixty-five percent of gross farm sales for fruit, vegetable, and nut farms came from the sale of locally produced products (this includes local sales through packers to local supply houses)," Sand said.

However, Sand pointed out that only 37 percent of gross annual sales of livestock and field crop producers came from local markets.

"This leads to the question why aren't more livestock producers selling locally? Even when demand for local meat exists, sometimes there is not a local processor," Sand said. Sand pointed to a USDA re-

port which showed that one issue affecting producer's ability to bring local meats to market is a lack of meat and poultry processing facilities. Sand said challenges may include producers having to travel long distances to reach the nearest inspected processing facility or delivering only a few head at a time.

"This results in increased transportation and opportunity costs. Also, producers may have difficulty getting slaughter dates during processors' busy times of the year. Some smaller processing facilities may not offer specific services that farmers and their customers' demand," Sand said.

When a local processor is available, Sand said they are often smaller and have a hard time breaking even. Smaller sized processors often lack the steady and consistent business needed to be profitable while providing high quality services to individual customers.

"Demand for local processors' services is highly seasonal. Estimates suggest that to be profitable a small processing plant providing basic services must annually process a minimum of 450-head of cattle, or the revenue equivalent from combinations of other livestock," Sand said. "Operations offering more sophisticated services require higher volumes to meet expenses. Thus, the processor may try to pull volume from other places, and as a result local processing may not always be available when farmers want it."

In order to bring local meat and poultry to market, Sand said it is necessary to stabilize and enhance processing capacity for local markets, therefore producers and processors must establish good business relationships. This means shifting from a relationship of "convenience" to a longer term "commitment" relationship.

To learn more, visit iGrow.org.



Parents of the couple are Dennis and Cindy Schumacher and Robert and Tracy Mueller.

The bride-elect graduated from Crofton High School in 2007, Mount Marty College in 2011, and is now working at Avera Education Staffing Solutions as an Education Coordinator.

The groom-elect graduated from Crofton High School in 2007, Northeast Community College in 2009, and is working at Arens farms in Crofton, NE.

The couple is planning an August 10, 2013 wedding at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Crofton, NE.

Schumacher-Mueller
Tierney Schumacher and Ben Mueller announce their engagement and upcoming marriage.

A Tie Rod In Need Of Repair Is A Very Serious Matter

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a 1987 Honda Accord, and the right front CV boot on the drive axle is torn. Mechanic said it would be about \$250 to replace, but then said that the tie rod must be removed and needs to be replaced, so it amounts to \$500 to repair. The car has 198,000 miles and is not worth too much more than that. Should I repair, or find another beater? Meanwhile, I wrapped the boot with plastic bags from the grocery store and wrapped duct tape around the bags and then used wire to hold it in place. I did squirt some grease into the boot before I did this. Can I get along with this for a while? Is this safe? I'm afraid to go too far from home. — Bo

TOM: Fears often are irrational and misplaced, Bo. Not yours — your fear of not straying too far from home in this heap is entirely justified. And we'd encourage you to abide by it.

RAY: I'm actually less worried about the CV boot than I am about the tie rod. Long before the CV joint fails, the car will make a terrible clacking noise and eventually stop moving. But that's it.

TOM: On the other hand, if the tie rod breaks, you suddenly won't be able to steer the car.

RAY: So if you trust your mechanic, and believe the tie rod really does need to be replaced, I'd spend the \$250 on



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

that. That's a threat to your existence; the CV boot is just a threat to your transportation.

TOM: Eventually, the CV joint will degrade and fail due to lack of lubrication. The repair you did with the plastic bags and duct tape won't help. As you probably know by now, the centrifugal force of the spinning wheel will make that stuff fly off. Or even if it doesn't fly off completely, it won't do much to keep the grease packed into the joint.

RAY: There IS something that does a very good job of holding the grease in there, Bo. It's called a CV boot. And it costs \$250.

TOM: But if you're willing to put in a little more time maintaining it, you can pick up a tube of CV grease from your Honda dealer, and then once a week get under the car and squirt some grease into the joint.

RAY: That would push out all the water, rocks and pedestrians that the joint accumulated from the road during the week, and replace it with life-sustaining lubricant. And if you were diligent, and did that once a week or so, the joint could soldier on for a long time.

TOM: It'll take you five minutes every weekend. Well, five minutes to grease the joint, then 15 minutes to clean your hands and two hours to go out and replace the clothes you stained. But that's a safe, acceptable, midrange solution.

RAY: But you can't Mickey Mouse the tie rod, Bo. If that breaks, you'll lose control of the car. So get that fixed right away. Good luck.

If it ain't broke, you won't have to fix it! Order Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more *Click and Clack* in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to *Click and Clack* in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

© 2013, Tom and Ray Magliozzi and Doug Berman

Rolling To The United Way



The United Way of Yankton received supplemental funds from Thrivent Financial for their Roller Dolly event in June. Pictured are, from left: WD Metheny, Lauren Hanson and Steven Pietila.

'Singles In Ag' Event Set For Meckling

MECKLING — The Nebraska Chapter of Singles in Agriculture will host a weekend of activities in Meckling Aug. 9-11. Singles in Agriculture (SIA) is a National organization that promotes social, educational and recreational activities for persons who are single and involved in farming or ranching activities or work with an agribusiness organization.

The group will begin to gather at 2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 9, at the E Circle E lodge (45345 311th Street) Meckling. Participants will have the choice of trap shooting at the lodge or a tour of the O.H. Over Museum in Vermillion during the afternoon. Supper will be served at the lodge. The group will attend the Clay County fair and then return to the lodge for evening campfire activities.

Saturday the group will tour the Shrine to Music Museum and local attractions,

raft the Missouri River and conduct Nebraska Annual Board meeting. Supper will be served at the E. Circle E lodge with karaoke and dance following. Sunday activities include breakfast, devotions and a walk across the Meridian walking bridge.

Area singles are welcome to attend any or all of the scheduled event activities. Persons interested in attending all or part of the activities will be charged a nominal activity fee to cover lodging, meals and tour expenses. For more information regarding the Nebraska Singles in Agriculture activities or to pre register for the above event call one of the following members, Gary or Shirley 605-267-2303 or Virginia 605-624-4689 or Cindy 308-920-0364 by Aug. 5.

Singles in Agriculture is a non profit organization that has been bringing people together since 1986. The Ne-

braska chapter sponsors local activities and joint events with the Northern Great Plains SIA chapter which included South Dakota, quarterly newsletters and a place for adults of all ages a chance to meet people with a common interest in agriculture.



"A referral from you is the highest compliment I can receive."

Tanya Hacecky
661-1150
Buying & Selling in NE & SD

Vision
REAL ESTATE SERVICES
igotvision.com



Bratton - Hoffner

Anna Jo Bratton and Joshua Hoffner announce their engagement and upcoming marriage.

Parents of the couple are Sandy and Jake Hoffner of Yankton, South Dakota, Mary Jo Neeley of Cape Girardeau, Missouri and Michael Bratton of Norfolk, Virginia.

The bride received a degree in Journalism from the University of Nebraska in 1999. She currently works as the Assistant West Editor in the Associated Press's Phoenix-based regional news office in Phoenix, Arizona.

The groom received a degree in Journalism from South Dakota State University in 1998. He currently serves as the Southwest News Editor for the Associated Press overseeing Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada. Both the bride and the groom reside in Phoenix, Arizona.

The couple is planning a September 28, 2013 wedding at Boojum Tree Hidden Garden in Phoenix, Arizona. A reception and dance also will be held on October 26, 2013 at Hillcrest Country Club in Yankton.

50th Anniversary Celebration



Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Johnson

You are cordially invited to attend an open house on Sunday, August 4, 2013, from 2 - 4 p.m. in celebration of Bob and Anna Mae's 50th wedding anniversary.

The couple was married on January 26, 1963, in Washington, D.C.

The celebration will take place at Kelly Inn Best Western, east Highway 50, Yankton, SD, and will be honored by their sons: Daniel of Phoenix, AZ, and Dave (Lori) of Volin, SD.

The couple requests no gifts.