



Monday Matters

July 29, 2013

Are You Making Lemonade?

We live in the part of Kentucky where there are beautiful rolling hills. Our acreage is hilly and in the summer time the hills are so brilliant green it seems you have to wear your sunglasses just to look at it. However, all those gorgeous hills can have some drawbacks.

We have some acreage that is flat. It's an area that runs along a fairly large creek and is called a "bottom." It's aptly named as the water runs down the hills headed for the bottom of the hills and then drains into the creek. This area is rich and fertile and that is where our coveted hay field grew. It was coveted because it was to produce winter hay for our horse. A neighbor was going to cut and bale it.



"I'm Trading My Sorrows"
by Woman of Faith Singers

Quote of the Week

The rains kept coming through the spring and early summer. There were few days that the hay could be successfully cut, dried and baled. We would drive by the field hopeful that one day our neighbor would be by to start the process. Slowly weeds started to creep in degrading its worth. Horses, we are told, are not interested in eating that kind of hay. So, we lost our crop of hay.



Our neighbor did come and cut the hay...he bush hogged it...just cut it down and left it laying there. Our goal of winter hay came to an end.

Most of our acreage, as I said before, is hilly. But this hayfield is nice and flat. We had been to a couple of horse shows that had arenas. I wondered if that flat "bottom" would work as a make-shift arena for us to ride our horse. Early in the morning we walked down to that part of the property and started to rake the cut grass off a big area to create our own little arena. That turned out to be hard work, but we kept at it. On the third day I went down and started rolling the grass in a different direction. It started to roll together in a great big roll. The roll got so heavy I had to get down and roll with my hands and arms, but it was astounding to see it roll so efficiently. Eventually I got it all cleared off and there was a suitable flat arena to ride the horse. So we've been out there

"Rejoice in tribulations because they work steadfastness, approvedness, and hope."

~Romans 5:3-5~

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"Hover Love"
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enjoying a ride where she can stretch out and do a little gaiting. She's still getting used to us, but every time we ride her she is responding better and better to our riding time.

At first getting the hay off that area seemed like a daunting task. Then when it started rolling together and worked out so well I realized that sometimes a small idea can work. I thought of that saying "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade." We sure had been handed lemons when the grass went bad and we lost the hay. But now we have a nice little place to ride and enjoy the horse...now we have lemonade.

Life is full of "lemon" moments. Sometimes we can rally and make lemonade...sadly, sometimes we can't seem to get one foot in front of another.

Can you think about your challenges and turn them into something that might be a good thing? It may not be the exact thing you want, but it may be something worthy to consider.

Make some lemonade.

By Linda J. Nelson



Outreach 2013 -- When Life gives you lemons...