

WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

Never Would I Ever

There are many things this former city girl used to say she would never, ever do. Of course, sometimes I would say all the things I would always do, but nowadays those are precisely the things that don't matter as much as they once did. So those, too, fall into the category of things I never imagined.

Never would I ever not wear my lipstick, even when I was driving a tractor. In the days of wearing face masks when in public, take my advice and don't put on your lipstick.

Never would I ever not keep my nails long and painted. I told my husband the other day my nails haven't been this short since elementary school. Even then I polished them every Saturday night so they would look nice for church. These days I'm perfectly fine with them uncolored and short. What is happening to me?

Never would I ever not keep my hair trimmed and colored. I haven't had a professional touch my hair since February. I never knew I had naturally wavy hair. I also never imagined myself coloring my own hair, but this, too, is now a fact.

Never would I ever have left my house not wearing a bra. Heck, I always wore a bra even around the house. Now I absolutely hate it when I do. Frankly, there are so many curbside errands these days I see no point in it.

Never would I ever think I would wear a hat. I must admit vanity could be partly responsible for this new fad for me. I'm happier when my white roots are covered, but I do think I look sassy wearing my floppy hats.

Never would I ever think my biggest excitement would be grocery-ordering day. No one delivers to the country, so we have our groceries delivered to our daughter's front porch who lives in the city. We look forward to our weekly socially distanced visits.

Never would I ever believe I would not give hugs to my family and friends. Elbow tapping and blowing kisses are not cutting it. When we first married almost 40 years ago, I went



Annette Bridges, in a hat, with one of her cows.



A few years ago, Annette Bridges painted this "never believe in never" on a canvas as she thought about believing anything was possible.