

Dairy photo album



Mothering instinct goes deep

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
LANCASTER — Just how strong is the mothering instinct of a dairy cow?

Pretty strong, if a few of the photos received in the recent Dairy Month Photo Contest are any indication.

A pretty typical illustration of this instinct is a big black and white mother standing over a small calf still wet from birth struggling to get up on spindly, wobbly legs.

Such a scene is shown in the accompanying photo sent in by Annette R. Miller, of R1, Gap. The mother has a protective look in her eye as she warily scrutinizes the person behind the camera. The calf has all it can do to just concentrate on staying up and perhaps taking its first steps.

On Labor Day, the calf will celebrate its first birthday, according to Mrs. Miller, and as shown in the photo she's not quite an hour old.

But dairy cows, like farm kids always bringing home stray puppies, kittens or bunnies, are quick to adapt to adopting foundlings of all kinds.

Just ask Donna Hinkle, of R1, Weatherly, Pa. She sent in the photo, which was taken by her husband, Morris, of their Brown Swiss cow, who adopted a fawn.

"Our cow, a Brown Swiss named Luckey, mothered the brazen fawn whenever Sudan felt hungry and needed a four-footed mother," Mrs. Hinkle said.

As Luckey eyes the camera and the fawn unconcernedly continues with her snack, Mrs. Hinkle believes that the Brown Swiss might be saying:

"Just look what I've got."

And what about the photo sent in by Mrs. Fern Messick, of R2, Elizabethtown.

While everyone has heard about milk-fed veal, she shows there can be milk-fed pork, too.

"This cow lost her calf at birth," she explains.

"One of the pigs got a taste of the milk on the floor and this was the start of the two adoptees nursing twice a day.

"If the pigs didn't go to her, she would start bawling for them and they'd run out to her very quickly.

"We had the two pigs butchered and it was the meatiest pork we've ever eaten."



We'd be remiss if we didn't point that we're not suggesting the start of a new variation in swine raising through the unusual photo. Also, it was taken some time ago before the pseudorabies outbreak and the concern over keeping swine and cattle separate.

Finally, we wish we could have shown the photo sent in by Mabel Kruse, of R1, Brockway, Pa. But it was just too dark to reproduce.

The photo shows a heavily-laden cow, whose udder was so big that milkers couldn't be attached.

So, she was given four calves to mother at the same time. The udder was so low that the two calves assigned to the back teats had to lie down in order to nurse.

"At first, I had to lay the calves down," Mrs. Kruse said.

"But in about a week they learned to kneel down. I raised the four calves as vealers and then sold the cow."

Lancaster Farming wishes to thank each of these contributors for sharing their unusual photos with us.

Likewise, thank you to the hundreds of readers who participated in the contest.

These and other photos we'll publish from time to time help illustrate that it's never dull on a dairy farm.

In fact, when the unusual or unique occurs, a dairy farm appears to be a good place for it to happen.

These "mothering instinct" photos help illustrate this belief.

See your nearest
SPERRY NEW HOLLAND

Dealer for Dependable
Equipment and Dependable
Service:

Alexandria, PA
Clapper Farm
Equipment
Star Route
814-669-4465

Annaville, PA
B.H.M. Farm
Equipment, Inc
R D 1
717-867-2211

Beavertown, PA
B&R Farm
Equipment, Inc.
RD 1, Box 217A
717-658-7024

Bernville, PA
Stanley A. Klopp, Inc.
Bernville, PA
215-488-1510

Carlisle, PA
Paul Shovers, Inc.
35 East Willow Street
717-243-2686

Catawissa, PA
Abraczinskas Farm
Equipment, Inc.
R.D. 1
717-356-2323

Chambersburg, PA
Clugston
Implement, Inc.
R.D. 1
717-263-4103

Daidsburg, PA
George N. Gross, Inc.
R D. 2, Dover, PA
717-292-1673

Elizabethtown, PA
Messick Farm
Equipment, Inc.
Rt. 283 - Rheem's Exit
717-367-1319

Gettysburg, PA
Yingling implements
R.D. 9
717-359-4848

Greencastle, PA
Meyers
Implement's Inc.
400 N. Antrim Way
P.O. Box 97
717-597-2176

Halifax, PA
Sweigard Bros.
R.D. 3, Box 13
717-896-3414

Honey Brook, PA
Dependable Motor Co.
East Main Street
215-273-3131
215-273-3737

Honey Grove, PA
Norman D. Clark
& Son, Inc.
Honey Grove, PA
717-734-3682

Hughesville, PA
Farnsworth Farm
Supplies, Inc.
103 Cemetery Street
717-584-2106

Lancaster, PA
L.H. Brubaker, Inc.
350 Strasburg Pike
717-397-5179

Lebanon, PA
Evergreen
Tractor Co., Inc.
30 Evergreen Road
717-272-4641

Lititz, PA
Roy A. Brubaker
700 Woodcrest Av.
717-626-7766

Loysville, PA
Paul Shovers, Inc.
Loysville, PA
717-789-3117

Lynnport, PA
Kermit K. Kistler, Inc.
Lynnport, PA
215-298-2011

Martinsburg, PA
Forshey's, Inc.
110 Forshey St.
814-793-3791

Mill Hall, PA
Paul A. Dotterer
R.D. 1
717-726-3471

Nazareth, PA
Edwards Farm
Equipment
291 West
Moorestown Rd.
215-759-0240

New Holland, PA
A.B.C. Groff, Inc.
110 South Railroad
717-354-4191

New Park, PA
M&R Equipment Inc.
P.O. Box 16
717-993-2511

Oley, PA
C.J. Wonsidler Bros.
R.D. 2
215-987-6257

Palm, PA
Wentz Farm
Supplies, Inc.
Rt. 29
215-679-7164

Pitman, PA
Marlin W. Schreffler
Pitman, PA
717-648-1120

Pleasant Gap, PA
Brooks Ford Tractor
W. College Ave.
814-359-2751

Quarryville, PA
C.E. Wiley & Son, Inc.
101 South Lime Street
717-786-2895

Reedsville, PA
Big Valley Sales
& Service,
Inc.
P.O. Box 548
717-667-3944

Ringtown, PA
Ringtown Farm
Equipment
Ringtown, PA
717-889-3184

Shippensburg, PA
R.B. Miller, Inc.
N. Seneca St.
717-532-4178

Silverdale, PA
I.G. Sales
Box 149
215-257-5135

Tamaqua, PA
Charles S. Snyder, Inc.
R.D. 3
717-386-5945

West Chester, PA
M.S. Yearsley & Son
114-116 East
Market Street
215-696-2990

West Grove, PA
S.G. Lewis & Son, Inc.
R.D. 2, Box 66
215-869-2214

Churchville, MD
Walter G. Coale, Inc.
2849-53
Churchville Rd.
301-734-7722

Rising Sun, MD
Ag. Ind.
Equipment Co., Inc.
1207 Telegraph Rd.
301-398-6132

Bridgeton, NJ
Leslie G. Fogg, Inc.
Canton &
Stow Creek
Landing Rds.
R.D. 3
609-451-2727

Washington, NJ
Frank Rymon & Sons
814-793-3791

Woodstown, NJ
Owen Supply Co.
Broad Street &
East Avenue
609-769-0308