

Kid's KOrner

What does Farm Show mean to you?

SHARTLESVILLE — Remember your first visit to the Pennsylvania Farm Show? What memories are conjured up when the Northeast's biggest agricultural show comes to mind?

And what about those folks who never have taken part in the fun and excitement of the traditional winter-time farmers' festivities? What do they think a Farm Show holds in store?

To find out, Lancaster Farming asked this question to the 25 sixth-graders in the Upper Berne Elementary School, located in Shartlesville, Berks County.

Teacher Robert H. Adam confessed he was surprised by many of the students' responses and was astonished that only 9 of his proteges actually had traveled to Harrisburg for the big show. A total of 7 of the eleven-year-olds actually live on farms in the predominantly rural area, with the remainder coming from outlying housing areas and the small town.

Let's take an unedited look at what a few of the Upper Berne sixth-graders had to say about what Farm Show means to them.

If I were to go to the Penna. Farm Show I would expect to have numerous exciting and educational experiences. I would also expect to see some unfavorable sights.

I would most likely (see) some highly positioned cows, goats, turkeys, chickens, pigs, and other animals. I would probably see some nice souvenir shops selling things to remember the show. I would expect some unrealistic prices also.

Then I would also expect to see a lot of crowds, a lot of pushing and shoving. And I would probably see a lot of litter.

Kevin Dewalt

If I would go to Farm Show I probably would see a lot of people. They would be showing the farm animals. People would have some cows in one area and some pigs in another. Some people might travel for miles to go to the Farm Show. Farmers usually go to the Farm Show every year.

Farmers let their cows get fat so they can win prizes. The fatter they are the more points they get. The farmers usually want a lot of points because they don't know how many points their competitors have. Their pigs usually have to get fat for the contest. All the farm animals have to get fat except the horses. Horses don't have to be fat because they usually go for the size and looks.

After the week is over, the farmers might butcher the cows and pigs or keep them for the next show.

Nathan Lawson

I went to the Farm Show when I was in second or third grade but the most I remembered about the show was the food and all the animals and farm equipment.

When my brothers and I were up there the things they liked best were the animals and the farm equipment. I could care less about the farm equipment but I liked all the different animals and especially the food and drinks.

When we were there I saw many tractors and wagons and began to become bored, but when I was looking at the animals I wanted to stay. There were cows, pigs, horses and chickens. I live on a farm and I love animals. This is why I look forward to going every year.

Tina M. Steinly



Upper Berne Elementary School students shared their thoughts and feeling on what Farm Show means to them. Participating in the essay exercise were: front row, from left, Adrienne Ogden, Monica Boyer, Kristen Ernst; second row, from left, JoAnne Wenger, Lynn Balthaser, Kevin Dewalt, Arnold Smith, Nathan Lawson, Renee Hoppes, Eric Strohl;

third row, from left, Jody Heckman, Jeff Schrack, Rick Bell, Tina Steinly, Cory McLaughlin, Aaron Boyer, Jimmy Berger; back row, from left, teacher Robert H. Adam, Tracey Schlappich, Emily Micacke, Tammy Balthaser, Robbie Deiseman, Barry Bachman, Matt Lutz, and Dennis Heckman. Not pictured, Heather Flowers.

The Pennsylvania State Farm Show is about farming. There are big tractors. They have grain silos, harvesters silos, barn cleaners, manure spreaders, and plows. You name it — they have it!

The Farm Show is very educational and a lot of people should go see it. They have a different varieties of animals. There are cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, ducks, turkeys, rabbits and horses. The people that have the animals are the FFA and 4-H members. It's really fun to go to.

Robert Deiseman

Tom, Jerry, I are really excited about going to the Farm Show. We imagine that there will be all kinds of farm animals like cows, pigs, horses — you know stuff like that.

We never saw big farm equipment like the farm show has. We have a tractor but nowhere near as big as theirs. Boy, would we like to have a tractor like that.

My Dad said that there are events like rodeos and horse pulls. It may be a long ride but I'll probably sleep all the way any way. I hope it's sure worth it.

Eric Strohl

I have never been to the Farm Show. But I hope to get there this year. I hope to see the best breed of cattle. I also hope to see my friends from school, eat lots of food and buy tons of souvenirs. I would also like to see old farm equipment and see how new devices are operated. I would like to sit on a gigantic tractor, maybe even drive one.

My friends always tell me how much fun it is to run around and see neat things. If I go I would like to take a friend that was never there because I know how they feel.

James Berger

The farm show is very interesting. My dad, likes the equipment. My mom likes quilting. My brother likes the cattle. But for me I like the horses.

The farm show has many events. Such as rodeos, horse pulling contest and showing of cattle and horses.

At the farm show you will see chickens, ducks, sheep, goats, pigs, cattle and horses.

There are many food stands to get different kinds of food. I'm sure you would like the farm show as much as I did.

Monica Boyer

The Farm Show to me was a nice show. There were all kinds of things there. You could see sheep being sheared, chickens hatching in an incubator and ducks walking up steps to get food but they always slide down into the water instead. You can buy maple syrup or popcorn. There were plenty of cows and pigs to be seen. There were some adult chickens too.

The part I liked best was all the equipment. Some of the tractors and combines you could sit in. Allis Chalmers, John Deere, International Harvester, New Holland and Badger are some of the makes of equipment and tractors at the show.

In my opinion the Farm Show is really interesting. You might even meet someone you know.

Jeff Schrack

The Pennsylvania State Farm Show is like it says, it is about farming. The show is held at Harrisburg every year. It is run by Mr. Manns. They display gigantic tractors with dual wheels down to small lawn mowers. There are chains saws, barn cleaners and feed carts. You name it and they'll most likely have it.

There is a lot of different animals such as horses, cattle, poultry, sheep, and pigs. There are horse shows and horse pulling which are held in the arena. Cattle shows are also held in the arena. There are different breeds of cattle such as Jersey, Holstein, Guernsey, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire and Shorthorns.

Many of the exhibits are made or set up by the 4-H or FFAs throughout Pennsylvania. I think the Farm Show is educational and fun for the whole family.

Tammy Balthaser

The Farm Show has lots of animals. There are chickens, roosters and calves. Some animals are sold for terrific prices. There are many breeds of all kinds of animals. There are enormously tall horses there. Many animals are sold for terrific amounts. The chickens are big and the food is delicious.

The Farm Show has tractors of all sizes. Some different kinds of tractors were John Deere and lots of other kinds too. The prices for the tractors were enormous. Some tractors had wheels as big as five feet. Some tractors were twenty feet long and seven feet high.

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Aaron Boyer