



For Deena Hess, the mother of four children, having one more child on the farm was no problem, and participating in the Shared Holiday program was a learning experience. Shown with Deena, front row from left, are her sons, Kevin and Ryan, and David Emerich, Lancaster. Back row, left, is her son, Cory, and seated on her lap is her daughter, Dana.

Farm Life: For David It's a Vacation

BY KIMBERLY HERR

LANCASTER — Smiling children on bicycles greeting visitors as they come down the lane is a common sight on a farm.

It is not in the city.

A puppy frolicking in the sunshine, next to a white goat bleating a welcome is not unusual on a farm.

It is in the city.

This summer, one young man, a stranger to the sights and sounds of country life, got a taste of what it's like to live on a farm.

Deena and Dennis Hess, Lititz R4, opened their spacious home to David Emerich, Palm Street, Lancaster, as part of the Shared Holiday Program, sponsored by the United Council of Churches. The program makes it possible for children from the city to experience life in more suburban or rural setting.

"We just talked about it and thought one more child won't make that much difference when you have four of your own," Deena said.

Although Deena's other children, ages two, four and six, enjoyed David's week-long visit, her seven-year-old son Ryan and David spent the most time together.

They went fishing and swimming in Middle Creek, rode bicycles and visited Rutt's Farm Market and



David thought farm life was "fun." The animals on the farm were a new experience for him. Above, he holds one of the puppies, while Ryan shows a baby pig to his sister, Dana.



The spacious home and large yard were a change from the city life David Emerich is familiar with. The Shared Holiday program allowed David to get a taste of life on the farm.

Green Dragon Market and Auction.

"His mom said that what he remembered the most was fishing," Deena said.

The Hess' 70-acre farm also offered some new experiences for David. The Hess' raise farrowing and fattening hogs, and the baby pigs held David's fascination.

The food was also different. "He told us he never had sweet corn," Deena said. "Applesauce and the sweet corn were his two favorite things."

David, a soft spoken child who says no more than he has to, was having too much fun with Ryan to care about answering questions, but he did give his opinion on farm life.

"It's fun," he said.

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