

# Youngsters enjoy field trip to Berks Co. Jersey farm



MOHRSVILLE — The end of the school year means class trips for most youngsters. In Berks County, as in many other counties, a tour of a dairy farm remains one of the favorite field trips for nursery school, kindergarten, and first-grade children.

The children in the pictures are touring the Phillip's Jersey farm in Mohrsville. Although small, with only 40 cows milking, the dairyman stressed the efforts that the farmer takes to give the children a premium glass of milk. The children are allowed to hand milk a cow, witness milking in the milking parlor, follow the milk into the milk house, travel through the barn to the feed bunk and loafing area, look into the silo and smell the haylage, feed a calf, pet the larger calves and the sheep, and ride a horse or pony cart, before being treated to an ice cream cone.

The Berks County Dairy Princess, Debbie Price, R1 Douglassville, was also on hand to sing a dairy song for the children and review the naturalness and nutrition in milk that the farmer had discussed with them.

This farm hosted over 300 children from the larger city of Reading, and the towns of Leesport, Greenfields, Mohrsville, and Shoemakersville. The children loved it.

Highlights of the tour for the children seemed to be trying to hit a bucket with a squirt of milk from

the cow; holding a pair of horns that were recently cut off a bull; seeing a large aspirin given to an unwilling cow; and riding a horse or pony. Kittens and a pet goat were also on hand to entertain the youngsters.

The parents who accompanied their children were also very interested in the farm way of life, the expenses with the dairy and field work, and the many inspections and certifications a dairy farm must meet.

When the kids first got off the buses, everyone held their nose. They were told, "Farm people think it smells strange in the city too." It was obvious that the kids didn't think the country was too bad, because when the teachers said it was time to leave

EVERYBODY wanted to STAY.

The farm family enjoyed the tour too. Although the family's preschool daughter was not impressed with all the excitement around her home, she did share her kittens and helped to hand out cow erasers and pencils as souvenirs to the visitors. Throughout the tour, the children were told that these cows were Jerseys, not Holsteins as on most farms. The differences were discussed and pictures of the other breeds were shown. After one class was finished with their picnic lunch on the lawn, the dairy farm wife thought that she would test the kids and see what they remembered about the tour. She asked, "What kind of cows do I milk?" The children unanimsously shouted, "AMERICAN." — RP

The dairy princess, Debbie Price, entertained the children with her song on dairying. Kids sang along and listened intently.



The horse was not too excited about all the attention. Although he received hundreds of carrot pieces the hands kept moving so that he had to find the carrots. His feet were also picked up many tiems so that the children could see his shoes nailed to his hooves. He took the occasion with great style however, as he gave many children their very first horse ride.



A very tame Jersey cow submitted to hundreds of tiny fingers trying to get a squirt of milk into a bucket. The children tried over and over again and many parents were unsuccessful too. After a short lesson, the bucket did show some milk droplets. Everyone agreed that a farmer must hate when the electricity goes off during a storm. In the milking parlor they were amazed at the amount of milk that the cows had stored in "her white part."



The children loved feeding a calf and much to the calf's dismay kept moving the bottle to other hands for "their turn."



Robin Hoffmaster, Mohrsville, assisted the farm family in dipping ice cream cones for all the children and parents. The weather was hot and everyone welcomed the ice cream.