

# Dairy family hosts West German student



Frauke Jens, of West Germany, gets taste of Berks County dairy farm life, including sweet corn.

**BY ROBIN PHILLIPS**  
Staff Correspondent  
BERNVILLE — "All is different," states Frauke Jens, West German exchange student when asked about her first impressions of America.  
"I was surprized there were so many new things at one time," she adds.  
Frauke Jens is living with the Wilson Balthaser dairy farm family, R1 Bernville. She is participating in the Educational Foundation for Foreign Students exchange program and will be staying with the Balthasers for ten months. Participating through their grange, the Balthasers state that it's interesting and "an experience" hosting a foreign student and they are enjoying her visit.  
"I wanted to see the difference not only in farming, but between Germany and the United States. It's another lifestyle," Frauke exclaims. "It's very different."  
"Where I live it's all flat," she continues. She comes from a farm

family that milks 50 cows with a pipeline system and raises 400 pigs. They farm about 100 acres which are measured in hectares there. She adds that it is not as hot in the summer or as cold in the winter, when describing her West German homeland.  
This is the first time that she has seen upright silos. In her homeland they use trench silos and pack the silage down with large tractors.  
She also says that school is "very different." Frauke attends Hamburg Area High School with Tammy Balthaser. In Germany, she says, they have no choice of courses but must take German, English, Math, Biology, Physics and Chemistry. They have breaks between each class and must go outside for the breaks. She attended a school dance with Tammy and also smiled and nodded when asked if that was different.  
Frauke's English is very good but she has trouble understanding Americans because "you talk to fast." She says that she was taught "English english," not "American

english," and has trouble understanding many slang, Americanized terms and the Pennsylvania Dutch accent of the Balthasers.  
She says that she really likes the sweet corn that LaVerne Balthaser makes and also looks forward to trying many other new dishes.  
One of her goals while here is to get her drivers license. The 17-year-old youth explains that in her country a license costs from \$200.00 to \$250.00 and there is a chance that they will honor an American one if she learns in the United States. She glances over at Wilson Balthaser. Permission from both sets of parents is needed, her own and her sponsor family. They both smile. The Balthaser's look forward to showing Frauke their part of America.

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