

The Joys Of Being A Farmer Boy

Last week you saw the first in a series of six articles written by Daniel Luke Fisher about the feelings a farm boy has while he grows up on the Franklin County family farm. Daniel is a 13-year-old Amish boy with seven brothers who live on a 160 acre farm along the Blue Mountain.

Here's his second article:

It's morning on the farm! "Ring, Ring, Ring." There goes the alarm clock, Guess I'd better get up.

I go out in the barn and give the cows hay. There comes Snoopy, our dog wagging his tail so hard it's a wonder it don't fly off!

Guess I'd better pat him 'till he's

satisfied.

When I'm done giving the cows hay I feed the calves. I take a bottle of milk down to the calf pen where four unruly, hungry, little calves are waiting to meet me. I pick one out and it sucks at the bottle greedily, "But No!" All the others want some too. Well, they aren't going to get any yet.

But they sure are going to try to get some. They suck me, my coat, my shoes, on each other's ear's, and just about everywhere.

When I'm done feeding the calves, (Or when the calves are done feeding on me!) I take a flashlight up to the Hog house. That's where the chickens are, that

we butcher, they're in a pen in the Hog house.

We have one pet chicken, his name is Harvey.

He greets me with a soft, "Reeee". Then while I'm getting their water bucket. Suddenly, "Er, Er, Er, Rooo!". Harvey roars his challenge right in my ear.

When Harvey was a little chick he arrived at our house with a lot of other peeping, hungry chicks. Some of them died later on.

He slowly grew, and he'd sit on our lap and eat feed out of our hands. But as he grew bigger he didn't do it so much, now he doesn't do it at all, but he's still tame.

After that I go over to the Guinea

Pig pen to move it.

We have a pen outside in the yard where they can eat all the grass they want. I have to move the pen every morning and evening so they have fresh grass to eat.

Last fall we had seventeen Guinea Pigs. Over the winter we about ran out of things to feed them. We started feeding them oats and one after the other they started dying. I don't know if it's from feeding them oats or from a disease.

When the winter was over we had three Guinea Pigs left, 2 bucks and 1 doe. After a while the doe died also. I think it was from old age, because we had that doe for

a long time. We kept the 2 bucks for over the summer and next spring we want to get a doe.

-By Daniel Luke Fisher

U-pick booklet

NEWARK, DE - Each year farmers and gardeners start new U-pick operations to market seasonal fruits and vegetables. Though this is generally a fast, economical way to sell fresh produce, success depends very much on skillful management.

The Delaware Cooperative Extension Service publication, "Management of Pick-Your-Own Marketing Operations," covers all aspects of running a U-pick business in the northeastern U.S. The 66-page booklet includes tips on planning, organizing, publicizing and operating this type of venture. It tells how to identify and reach potential customers, schedule production and lay out fields, design facilities such as parking and check-out systems, set prices, deal with customers and employees, and reduce the risk of accidents.

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