

# Kid's KOrner

## Schooltime Fun For Second Graders On Farm Tour

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Lancaster Farming Staff  
NEWTOWN SQUARE (Delaware Co.) — The students in Mrs. Linda Muhoney's and Mrs. Ellen Alexander's Scenic Hills second grade class got a "mouth-opening experience" last week.

That's when they took a field trip to the Garrett Williamson Farm on Bishop Hollow Road as part of their food production class.

They looked inside a ram lamb's mouth and tried to guess exactly how old the animal was.

"What's happening to your teeth?" asked Delaware Extension Director and County 4-H Agent C.R. "Bud" Bryan to the group of about 10 second-graders.

Some just stopped petting the lamb for a second, smiled, and raised their hands. One girl answered, "They fall out."

Bryan asked her, "And what do you call the teeth that you had to begin with?"

"Baby teeth," said a boy, laughing.

"And what do you call the teeth that you get?"

Together, many of the students said, "Permanent teeth!"

Bryan told them that, yes, sheep also lose their baby teeth, much like humans. Their mouth grows and adult teeth replace the starter teeth.

Bryan asked them to guess the age of the sheep by the teeth it has. Two teeth are lost per year, over a total of about four years. "If you look in the sheep's mouth and it had six adult teeth and two left on the ends, how old would the sheep be?"

One girl spoke up quickly, and said, "Eight!" But that's not right, according to Bryan. The 4-H agent asked them to do a little adding on their own — if it had six adult teeth, that's three times two, which makes six.

"Three," said a boy.



Bud Bryan, 4-H agent, and Leslie Ruzowicz, 4-H staffer, show second graders what to look at to determine the age of sheep.

Photos by Andy Andrews

"That's correct," said Bryan, smiling.

Jim Short, 4-H aide, and Leslie Ruzowicz, part-time 4-H staffer, were on hand to offer the demonstrations.

Linda Muhoney, second grade teacher at Scenic Hills (part of the Springfield, Delaware County school system), said the field trip was part of the culminating experience for the students.

The children also visited other exhibits on the 240-acre farm, including the embryology project (housed in the old maternity section of the former dairy barn).

A lot like the Ag In the Classroom Project, the 4-H Food Production Education Program, run by the extension, provides an opportunity for the students to learn the fundamentals of animal agriculture. Through the 4-H office, local schools can sign up with the program and tour the farm during April, May, or June.

The program is aimed at grades two and higher. It allows students

to learn how food is produced, the variety of different foods, relationship of agriculture to each person, and to practice healthy eating using all four food groups.

Groups tour the facility. Last week, the farm housed an Ayrshire dairy heifer, two Angus (a cow/calf pair and heifer), one Yorkshire cross sow with a litter, and various sheep and poultry.

During the summer, 40 kids will take care of 18 pigs and 10 or more

market lambs. But taking care of many of the animals will be shared by a great deal of the more than 5,000 active 4-H members.

In addition, the barn is undergoing some changes so 4-H members can practice showing farm animals.

Teachers interested in signing up for the food education program can contact Bryan at the Delaware County Extension Office, 1521 North Providence Road, Media, PA 19063, (215) 565-9070.



A cow and her calf stay shy and aloof from Mrs. Alexander's second grade class.



"Man, she's cute," says a Scenic Hills second grade student while he pets "Casey," a 2-year-old Ayrshire at the Williamson Farm. James Short, 4-H program aide, looks on.



Students from Mrs. Mahoney's class play a version of the "food group twister" at the Williamson farm.



Leslie Ruzowicz, 4-H staffer, right, shows a student from Mrs. Mahoney's class how to display the sheep's teeth.