

Kid's KOrner

Students Learn Pigs Aren't Stupid

ERIC LEWIS

Special to Lancaster Farming
LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — The students line up in eager anticipation to see the slightly hairy little creature. The little animal scarcely makes a sound as each student files past and pets the three-month-old pig on the back and head. Most laugh, some are expressionless, but all enjoy the experience.

For some fourth grade students at John Beck Elementary in Lititz, it was the first time they saw a pig up close, let alone pet one. It is for this reason that Sue Pfautz and Roger and Grace Moyer volunteered to participate for three days recently in the program called "Ag in the Classroom".

"I don't think people today really know where their food comes from," said Roger Moyer, a Lititz poultry farmer. "What we are trying to do is make the connection with the food they see in the store and what they eat to where it comes from."

While the Moyers' showed one group of fourth graders the process chickens and eggs go through to reach the kitchen refrigerator, Sue Pfautz was explaining to another group the various uses of pigs and how pigs are raised.

At the end of Pfautz's presentation, she surprised the students by bringing a three month old pig out and allowing the students to pet the little animal, while the Moyers' group had a taste of some hard-boiled eggs.

"Agriculture is the number one industry in Lancaster County. It is important in everyday life," said Pfautz, coordinator of the program. "You don't have to be raised on a farm to be involved with agriculture."

A couple of students admitted that they really did not know much about farming and the animals that they see or hear daily.

Shawn Ryan, fourth grader at

John Beck, did not realize that the 200 pound porkers he sees in the area are the third most intelligent animals behind dolphins and monkeys. "I always thought that (pigs) were a little stupid, but they are really not. I also learned how pigs are raised and how eggs are produced."

Barnaby Yoder, another fourth grader, learned much also. "I learned how a chicken house looks and how eggs are produced. I also found out that pigs are the third smartest animal."

The program also held a one-hour tour of the Marvin Witmer farm, Clay Rd, Lititz. Witmer discussed milk production and showed the students the barn, cows, feed, milking systems, etc.

Other aspects of agriculture covered were types of farm machinery by Rick Pfautz of Binkley and Hurst Bros. Milk nutrition was discussed by Lancaster County dairy princess Jill Harnish, of Christiana and alternate Heather Becker of Narvon. The activities and aspects of FFA (Future Farmers of America) were presented by Donald Nissley, a senior at Warwick High School.

Three hundred and twenty-six fourth grade students from John Beck, Lititz and Kissel Hill Elementary schools were involved in the activities and presentations that covered portions of a three day period last week.

"Farming has changed greatly in the past number of years," said Pfautz. "It is a science today. You have to be very precise to remain competitive."

The Moyers' agreed with Pfautz. Roger said, "If people would see the computer systems farmers have now, they would realize how complicated farming is. The programs farmers use are just as sophisticated as any other business computer. It is a business now."



Fourth grade students pet a pig during an Ag in the Classroom demonstration.

Two Sweep Top Rabbit Awards At Berks Show

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Two New Jersey youths swept the top rabbit awards recently at the annual Berks County Wabbit and Cavy Lovers 4-H Club Youth Show, held in the 4-H Community Center.

A Mini Rex rabbit owned by Bill Cunningham of Sparta, N.J., was chosen best of show and also chosen best of 4 class. Best of 6 class went to a Satin owned by Georgia Van Horn of May's Landing, N.J.

A Brindle White Crested cavy owned by Lisa Kolb of Perkiomenville was selected as the best cavy, or guinea pig, in the show. This one also won best of breed and best opposite.

Nancy Plushanski, organizer of the show, said it was the biggest show the club has had yet. About 325 rabbits and 50 cavies were shown by 70 exhibitors.

The following are the results of the rabbit show by breed:

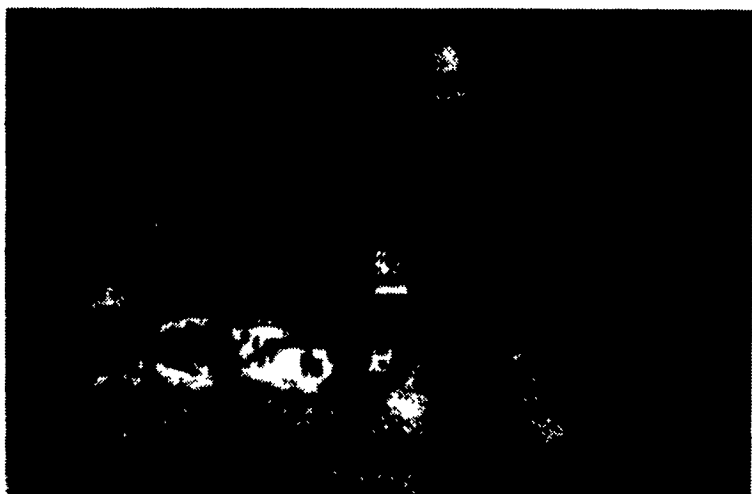
WABBIT AND CAVY LOVERS 4-H CLUB YOUTH SHOW

American fuzzy lop: Sky LaFeneis, Tom's River, N.J., and best opposite sex.
 Californian: Rachael Meas, Spinnerstown, PA., and best opposite.
 Creme D'Argent: Tammy Brooks, Palmyra, PA.
 Champagne D'Argent: Rudy Ziegler, Spring City, PA; best opposite: Jim Harris, Wallingford, PA.
 Dutch: Alisha Gardner, Ellottsburg, PA; best opposite: Heather Long, Egg Harbor, N.J.
 English Angora: Ashley Taylor Fuller, Mt. Holly, N.J., and best opposite.

Florida White: Ruth Ann Baughman, Hershey, PA.
 Flemish Giant: Erica Wineske, Jonestown, PA, and best opposite.
 Himalayan: Jesse Romberger, Millersburg, PA, and best opposite.
 Holland Lop: Toby Lee Heinze, Lakewood, N.J.; Alisha Gardner, Ellottsburg, best opposite.
 Mini Lop: Cheryl Lutz, Spring City, PA; Kelly Toon, Cardiff, N.J., best opposite.
 English Lop: Jackie Wetzel, Pennsburg, PA, and best opposite.
 French Lop: Adam Lutz, Spring City.
 Jersey Wooly: Khara Murphy, Franklinville, N.J.; Neil Baughman, Hershey, best opposite.
 Netherland Dwarf: Michael Wade, Skyesville, Md.; Misty Gilbert, Lakehurst, N.J., best opposite.
 New Zealand: Jesse Romberger, Millersburg, PA, and best opposite.
 Polish: Ashley Taylor Fuller, and best opposite.
 Palomino: Tammy Brooks, Palmyra.
 Rex: Matt Baerlein, Hampstead, Md.

Nathan Kramer, Bernville, PA, best opposite
 Mini Rex: Bill Cunningham.
 Rhinelander: Allen Schaeffer, Lenhartville, PA; Tammy Brooks, best opposite.
 Satin: Georgia Van Horn; Nicole Carroll, Dorothy, N.J., best opposite.
 Silver Marten: Rachael Meas, and best opposite.
 Tan: Tammy Brooks, and best opposite
 Mixed: Denise Nacharski, Levittown, PA; Janine Barrera, Norristown, PA, best opposite.

Results of the cavy show by breed:
 American: Ernest Loser, Jr., Lebanon, and best opposite.
 Abyssinian: Ernest Loser, Jr.
 Peruvian: Kendra Harrold, Lanoka Harbor, N.J.; Jackie Wetzel, Pennsburg, PA, best opposite.
 Silkie: Kendra Harrold, and best opposite.
 Satin American: David Bates, Cardiff, N.J., and best opposite.
 Satin Peruvian: Christy Cascioli, Egg Harbor, N.J.; Jackie Wetzel, best opposite.
 Teddy: Christy Cascioli, and best opposite.



Nathan Kramer's Rex rabbit won several trophies and ribbons at the Berks youth show.

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