

Kid's KOrner

Children Learn About Farming At PAWS Dairy Barn

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MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. —

Many children who do not grow up on a farm do not know where their food comes from. They think it comes from the store. It's true that all kinds of food can be purchased at the store, but before it gets to the store, it comes from the farm. Many children do not understand this.

To help children understand that milk comes from cows and so does ice cream, yogurt, and cheese, a different kind of a farm, called PAWS Farm, is a place for children to visit. The farm is located in Mount Laurel, N.J.

Many years ago, it was a regular working farm with cows in the barn. Then it became PAWS Farm Nature Center. PAWS stands for the Preservation and Wildlife Society. Recently PAWS renovated the barn to tell the story of a real farm.

In the barn, a mannequin farmer milks a large fiberglass Holstein cow. Children who visit the barn are given a puzzle. In different parts of the barn, they receive a puzzle piece that fits in the puzzle. For example, at one station, the children receive a small milk bottle that fits in the puzzle. This helps them understand the different food groups.

This continues in areas that teach them about chickens, eggs, fruits, grains, and many more products.

One of the most fun parts for children is that they can go grocery shopping in the "Moo"-tricious Store. The children fill their grocery carts with food cartons from the different food groups. They even have "PAWS money to pay for the food.

They can drive a delivery truck, take corn off the stalk, and watch vegetables grow.



A visitor at PAWS Farm nuzzles Dory, the Dorset sheep.



Sheep shearing demonstrations take off the woolly coats of the sheep.

You can learn what Howdy Doody likes to eat and other characters like the Lone Ranger.

There are real farm animals such as chicks, sheep, rabbits, horses, cats, and dogs.

Jan Stanton, executive director for Dairy Council, helped set up the learning barn. She said that children who visit the barn are more likely to eat their food when they know where it's coming from.

Some other things children like to do at the farm include seeing wildlife such as deer, mallard ducklings, an owl, and other birds and animals from the forest.

PAWS is open Wednesday through Sunday year-round, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$1.25. Special events are often planned. To learn more about PAWS, located at 1105 Hainesport-Mt. Laurel Rd., call (609) 778-8795.



Tugger, a Golden Retriever, greets a visitor at PAWS.



Micah Horton fills up his cart with dairy products in the pretend "Moo"-Tricious Market.



Milk promotion knows no age or county boundaries. These relatives from Chester and from Lancaster counties gathered at the Lancaster pageant where Patty Longenecker, front, receives recognition for her first-place win in the Coloring Contest. Her aunt Charlene Rohrer Ranck from Chester County was the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess in 1981. Her grandmother Vera Rohrer is chairman of Chester County Dairy Promotion, and her grandfather Elvin is a farmer.