

# Kid's KOrner

## City Kids Turn Country Experts

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QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — "We are city people-playing farmer," Glen Ebling said of his family of seven children.

But the ribbons the family garnered at the Solanco Fair indicate that the Ebling family are fast becoming experts at farming techniques.

They entered 65 to 70 projects at



Ten-year-old David shows that he can compete with the best of the cooks. His canned cherries placed second in competition.



Even 4-year-old Glen was in on the act. He entered houseplants and flowers, which he said is his job to water at home.



Six-year-old Meagan eagerly showed off the three different kinds of cherries that she entered, a houseplant, squash, zucchini, and flowers.



The Ebling family includes parents Glen and Ursula with children, Stephanie, 12; David, 10; Ahren, 8; Meagan, 6; Glen, 4; Hanah, 2, and Caleb, 6 months.

the Solanco Fair and took home an impressive number of blue and red ribbons — 36 in all.

Four years ago, the family moved to Lancaster County. It was their first exposure to the fair and to growing plants in the soil and canning vegetables and fruits.

The family could not be more enthusiastic to what they consider a wonderful way of life.

"I'm the oldest," said 12-year-old Stephanie. I entered 45 things in the fair. Most of her items were canned goods, gourds, watermelon, sewing, and art projects. Last year she placed 10th in competition for the person who gained the most points for items entered. This year, she placed seventh and won a dual tape player.

Her 10-year-old brother David also entered canned foods, and added some woodworking and crafts to his entries.

Eight-year-old Ahren was excited to win a first place for his bottle collection.

Six-year-old Meagan eagerly showed off the three different kinds of cherries that she entered, a houseplant, squash, zucchini, and flowers.

Even 4-year-old Glen was in on the act. He entered houseplants and flowers, which he said is his job to water at home.

Only 2-year-old Hannah and 6-month old Caleb did not enter competition.

The Eblings are enthusiastic about their move to the country.

They have steers, goats, geese, ducks, and sheep on their farm.

The children take care of the animals, which includes milking the goats since goat milk is drunk by the family. The children learned to birth goats and have even assisted the vet with operations.

With no previous farming experience, the family said they learned how to care for animals by learning from the kindness of the veterinarian, people who sold them the goats, and others along the way.

"It's wonderful," said Ursula, the mother, of living on the farm. "My mother had taught me a little



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bit about canning when I was growing up. What I didn't know, I learned by reading cookbooks. The children and I even learned how to make cottage cheese."

allows them the opportunity for the children to be best friends with each other and to help each other in the many projects that they prepare for fair competition.

This is the seventh year that she is home schooling the children. Homeschooling, she said,

Glen is a consulting engineer who helps on the farm when he can, but he credits his wife and children for being the real farmers.



Lindsey Myer, 3, sits on a pumpkin at the Solanco Fair. She is the daughter of Brian and Sherri Myer of Quarryville.