

Berks Teachers Learn Lessons

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
UPPER BERKS COUNTY —
 "The students tell me, 'Mrs. Menet is going to the farm today, she has her jeans on!'"
 Glenside Elementary fourth grade teacher Mary G. Menet knows how important the lessons of "hands-on" experience can be.

Every year, during the special Ag In The Classroom Teacher Seminar, she takes back the lessons she's learned about agriculture and brings them to her class. "I use everything," she said. This year was no exception, as she reached out to feed "Josh," a 3-year-old purebred registered Angus bull out of the herd of Papa

Farm, with the help of farm manager Brian Mohn. Menet joined about 45 other teachers from 18 different Berks County schools, from kindergarten through grade 12, to visit three separate beef production and processing locations on Tuesday evening. Teachers included history, sci-

ence, art, and others from high school and general instructors from kindergarten through the elementary level. The locations included a finishing operation, W.T. Palmer and Son, Shartlesville; Papa Farm, an Angus cow-calf farm managed by Brian and Karen Mohn, Strausstown; and a processor, Peters

Bros. Meats, Lenhartsville. Using lessons Rose Consoli, third grader from St. Ignatius, will be the lessons learned about farm operations to teach her class where beef comes from. And so will John Reider, who teaches grades 10 through



Mary G. Menet, left, reaches out to feed "Josh," a 3-year-old purebred registered Angus bull out of the herd of Papa Farm, with the help of farm manager Brian Mohn.



Included was a tour of the computerized smokehouse operation — sausage-making equipment — conducted by Rex Peters.



The Beef Council supplied handouts for teachers during the tour Tuesday evening.



John Reider, who teaches grades 10 through 12 at Oley Valley, said there are elements of how a farm operates and how animals use feed in the growth cycle that he can use in teaching high school science. Here, he puts on boots for biosecurity at the Palmer farm.

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