

Kids' Korner

Students Visit Modern-Day Old MacDonald's Farm

BETH MILLER

Cumberland Co. Correspondent
BOILING SPRINGS (Cumberland Co.) — Lee Hoover really has an Old MacDonald's Farm on his 180 acres near Boiling Springs.

He has beef animals on his farm, plus goats, sheep, chicken, guineas, ducks and all sorts of things with feathers and fur.

Hoover said he didn't plan to have such a variety. It just happened all on its own.

The way the ducks came to be on the farm is an example of how things worked out.

The first of the ducks arrived when the Hoover's daughter, Linnea, was in first grade at Rice Elementary School. The little girl's class incubated duck eggs. The hatchlings stayed in the classroom for a little while, but after a time, they needed somewhere else to go.

The Hoover farm became their new home and, ever since, there have been ducks on the place. That was six years ago, Hoover said.

School children still come to visit the ducks, and see all the other animals at the farm.

But the farm isn't a zoo. It is a real working operation.

The Hoovers milk 50 cows on their 180 acres and have another 50 heifers and calves. They also grow corn, hay, and barley.

The Hoovers do like variety.

For example, they don't have just one or two breeds of cows like many farms. Instead, they have six breeds.

They have Brown Swiss, Milk-

ing Shorthorns, Guernseys, Ayrshires, Jerseys, and Holsteins. Hoover said they show all the breeds except the Jerseys.

Holsteins are the main milkers, he said. Hoover said the various breeds mainly were gotten for the Hoover children to show.

In addition to Linnea, who is now a student at Boiling Springs Junior High School, there are Larry, who is going to Penn State for a two-year degree in agricultural engineering; Loren, who is a diesel mechanic; and Lynn, who is studying welding in high school.

Hoover said all of his three boys still want to farm, but they are also determined to learn another trade.

Living on a farm like the Hoovers' makes one a jack-of-all-trades.

Not only do the Hoovers have to deal with the cows, they also have to know how to handle their four sheep, 10 goats, and 10 rabbits.

The goats are used for breeding and the Hoovers sell the kids. In addition, Linnea milks two of the goats.

The chickens that are all over the place are used for their eggs, which the Hoovers sell fresh directly from their farm.

To keep track of all their feathered friends, the Hoovers buy a different chicken cock each year so they know exactly how old each different group of chickens is.

One thing is certain on the Hoover farm. The Hoovers may be rather busy, but they never are bored.



The Hoovers' goats and sheep



The kindergarten students play with the Hoovers' goats and sheep.



Step right up and enjoy a splash.



Linnea Hoover shows one of her Oxford Sheep, Strawberry.

4-H Summer Day Camps Offered

CREAMERY (Montgomery Co.) — School will be out shortly! How do your children plan on spending the summer? Here are a few ideas. The Montgomery County 4-H Center is offering two day camps this summer. The Animal Science day camp is being offered for youth ages 9-14 the week of June 27. Youth will be able to learn more about and work with a variety of farm animals. During

the week of July 25, there will be an Environmental day camp for youth ages 8-12. Both camps will have lots of hands-on experience and will be run by teen leaders of the 4-H community. A small fee will be charged and parents must provide transportation to and from the 4-H Center located on Route 113 between Routes 73 and 29. Scholarships will also be available.

Please consider these great summer opportunities and mark them on your summer calendars! Brochures and registration forms will be available shortly. Call the 4-H office at (610) 489-4315 to request one. Inquiries about the Animal Science day camp should be directed to Nancy Kadwill and questions about the Environmental Day camp to Ann Wetzel.

