

Kid's KOrner

Cumberland County Presents 4-H Ag Science Camp

BETH MILLER
Cumberland Co.
Correspondent

MECHANICSBURG (Cumberland Co.) — A group of children had a lot of fun and learned a great deal about farming during the first Cumberland County 4-H Agricultural Science Camp.

The 33 kids who participated in the camp, which was open to both 4-H members and non-members, enjoyed three days of camping and activities at Monroe Elementary School, plus two interesting trips to local farms.

One of the highlights of the camp was a trip to Strock's livestock farm.

At Strock's, where hogs are the main livestock, the children learned about raising and harvesting crops in a plant farming workshop. They learned all about seeds and weeds and planting, fertilizing, and what farmers do to protect the environment.

As part of the workshop, they collected weeds and taped them to a piece of paper. They then had to correctly identify each weed.

As part of the plant harvesting lesson at Strock's, the children got to harvest a "field" of grain that was about 3 feet by 3 feet. They had to cut the straw and thresh the grain, then clean the grain, calculate the yield, and to a moisture test.

While they were at Strock's, they also learned about the different parts of pigs and learned about large machinery that is used to manage the farm.

The other farm they visited was the Walton's dairy farm.

At that farm, they learned about dairy cows, saw how cows are milked, and were allowed to help feed some calves.

The children saw the grain, corn silage, and hay that cows eat and were told why cows need salt blocks to stay healthy.

One of the most fun things they did during their trip to the Walton's was to make their very own little containers of butter.

There was a lot of cooking going on once the children got back to the school.

To start with, they made bread from scratch. They seemed to be having a very good time as they put in the flour, kneaded the dough by hand, and put their creations in the oven. But the best part came when they got the chance to eat their work.

They also got to put their taste buds to work after they got done with their second cooking project, which was to make fresh strawberry jam. The children thought that went pretty good with the bread and the butter.

Another interesting thing the kids go to do was textile weaving. They did that on cardboard looms by hand.

The children learned very much in a very short time at the camp. They will be able to remember the fun they had every time they look at the log books that each of them kept of their experiences and at the puzzles, games, and diagrams of animals and plants and weaving and baking techniques they got to take home from camp.



The group gathers samples of the different feed.



The participants learn the difference between corn silage and cow grain.



Some of the participants at the Cumberland County Agriculture Camp show some of the fruits of the labor — jars of strawberry jam they made themselves.



Ashley Bass and Stephanie McDonald show some of their weaving in progress at the Cumberland County Agricultural Camp.



Kathy Walton explains to the group how the cows are milked.



The participants try to guess the weight of this 50 lb. salt block.