

# Farmer Cultivates Good Will Through Tours

LEWES, Del. — "Why are all those cows wearing price tags?" a first-grader asked Walter Hopkins during a recent tour of his dairy farm. It wasn't a price, of course;

it was a numbered tab attached to the cow's ear for identification. But for Hopkins, a Delaware dairy farmer, the question was an oppor-

tunity to teach about a subject close to his heart — agriculture. "You have to really want to tell children about farming when you invite them for a tour in between planting corn and cutting alfalfa — it's our busiest season," Hopkins says. Yet he knows that education is the first step to understanding, and a firsthand experience has more impact than a picture in a book.

Hopkins graduated from the University of Delaware in 1970 with a degree in agricultural engineering. After a tour of duty in Vietnam, he returned to the family farm. Today he milks a 450-head dairy herd on 1,000 acres in Sus-

sex County near Lewes. Hopkins' father William, who began farming there with six cows more than a half century ago, is still actively involved in the operation.

Hopkins gives dairy tours as a part of a Sussex County 4-H agricultural learning experience. The tours target children from kindergarten to second grade. They see the dairy operation from calving area to the automated milking parlor and feeding stations.

Other parts of the tour are handled by 4-H'ers, cooperative extension agents, master gardeners and master food educators, who set up demonstrations and exhibits that illustrate how much agriculture

affects lives every day.

Hopkins, a former 4-H'er who last year won the state 4-H award of recognition for leadership and success in agriculture, says he's happy to do his part in helping the next generation learn about agriculture. Hopkins adds that he doesn't have to wonder if his investment is paying off. He knows it is.

"When I get the children's thank-you letters, drawings and posters later in the mail, I know I'm getting through to them," Hopkins says. "Their drawings show that they've learned something about where their food comes from. It's worth it."

## 4H

### HAPPENINGS

#### Berks Horse Show

Following are results from the recent Berks County Horse Show.

**Grooming & Showmanship 12 yrs. & under** 1. Annie Wertz; 2. Katie Haring; 3. Sara L. Dissinger.

**Grooming & Showmanship 13-15 Yrs.** 1. Laura M. Phillips; 2. Susan Braun; 3. Megan E. Dissinger.

**Grooming & Showmanship 16 yrs. & older** 1. Amy A. Phillips; 2. Stephanie Hudson

**Open Trail Horse** 1. Susan Braun; 2. Katie A. Ramsay; 3. Katie Haring.

**Pleasure Pairs** 1. Jennifer Connolly, Laura M. Phillips; 2. Laura M. Gingrich, Elizabeth E. Ehrig; 3. Katie Haring, Anne Wertz.

**Stock Seat Equitation Jr. Div.** 1. Katie A. Ramsay; 2. Katie Haring; 3. Susan Braun.

**Stock Seat Equitation Sr. Div.** 1. Laura M. Phillips; 2. Staci Rakowiecki; 3. Kevin Hausman.

**Western Pleasure Ponies (12.2 hands & under)** 1. Ernest D. Kocher III; 2. Kate O. Kocher.

**Western Pleasure Ponies (over 12.2 & not over 14.0 hands)** 1. Jennifer Connolly.

**Western Pleasure Horses (over 14.0 hands, Jr. Rider)** 1. Katie A. Ramsay; 2. Susan Braun; 3. Katie Haring.

**Western Pleasure Horses (over 14.0, Senior Rider)** 1. Laura M. Phillips; 2. Staci Rakowiecki; 3. Kevin Hausman.

**Western Riding** 1. Katie A. Ramsay.

**Reining** 1. Katie A. Ramsay.

**Pole Bending Pony** 1. Ernest D. Kocher, III; 2. Dylan M. Boltz.

**Pole Bending Horse** 1. Jenna Miller, 2. Amy A. Phillips.

**Clover Leaf Barrel Race Pony** 1. Ernest D. Kocher III; 2. Dylan M. Boltz.

**Clover Leaf Barrel Race Horse** 1. Lacy Miller; 2. Amy A. Phillips; 3. Jenna Miller.

**Raised Box Keyhole Pony** 1. Kate O. Kocher; 2. Ernest D. Kocher, III.

**Raised Box Keyhole Horse** 1. Amy A. Phillips; 2. Jenna Miller.

**Hunter Seat Equitation Jr. Div.** 1. Elizabeth E. Ehrig; 2. Tracy Kramer; 3. Nicole Smith.

**Hunter Seat Equitation Sr. Div.** 1. Laurel A. Schappell; 2. Stephanie Hudson; 3. Ruth Alkons.

**Hunter Seat Equitation (over jumps) Jr. Div.** 1. Laura M. Gingrich; 2. Timothy Clewell.

**Hunter Seat Equitation (over jumps) Sr. Div.** 1. Angie McGinnis.

**Hunter Ponies Under Saddle** 1. Elizabeth E. Ehrig; 2. Laura M. Gingrich; 3. Timothy Clewell.

**Hunter Horses Under Saddle** 1. Tracy Kramer; 2. Amy Eldon; 3. Laurel A. Schappell.

**Working Hunter Ponies** 1. Timothy Clewell.

**Working Hunter Horses** 1. Ruth Alkons.

**Hunter Hack Ponies** 1. Laura M. Gingrich; 2. Elizabeth E. Ehrig; 3. Amanda Gensel.

**Hunter Hack Horses** 1. Angie McGinnis; 2. Nicole Smith; 3. Amy Eldon.

**Pleasure Pony Driving** 1. Ernest D. Kocher, III; 2. Kate O. Kocher.

**Walk Trot** 1. Jared Millard; 2. Margo DeCesar; 3. Andrea Buler.



Delaware dairy farmer Walter Hopkins explains to elementary-school children how cows are milked in an automated dairy operation.

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