

Kids Korner

Five Kids Have Lots Of Fun

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Like most kids playing around in a barn, the five belonging to the Eveler family run around, chase each other and climb up and down the stacks of bales.

They also butt heads, stop to nibble at hay and crowd around their mother for a quick snack.

The five kids in the Eveler barn are baby goats, born January 24 to their four-year-old Alpine doe, "Patches." All five, four girls and one boy, look very much alike with their black and white markings. The girls, or does, are named Sugar, Spice, Cinnamon and Nutmeg, while the boy, or buck, has not been named since he will be sold.

Because five kids are more than almost any mother goat can raise all by herself, the Evelers feed extra milk in bottles to some of the hungry kids. Joel, 15, and Jolette, 11, and their parents John and Jockquin, all work together to help tend Patches' kids and the other goats in the family's herd of 36.

This was Patches' third time to give birth; she had triplets the first and second times she kidded. John Eveler found the quintuplet kids early in the afternoon, after Patches had delivered them with no help. Most of the kids weighed between five and six pounds. One was a little smaller, and another had some weakness in its back legs, but all five are growing fast and have lots of energy and curiosity.

Several of the goats in the Eveler's herd are 4-H projects belonging to Jolette and Joel, who started the herd when he got his first goat six years ago. Joel and Jolette are members of both York County and Harford County, Maryland, 4-H goat clubs and show goats at both 4-H and some open shows. Last year, Joel had the champion buck at the York 4-H Fair Roundup.

Joel and Jolette have found that goats make very interesting, and sometimes funny, pets. The family has a pygmy goat, a very small one, that sometimes climbs up on the house roof. Then Joel has to climb up and carry it back down.

Last year, they took part in goat races at Falmouth in Lancaster County. Joel and his pygmy-Nubian cross goat named Billy won their race. To race, the goat is handled on a leash and both the goat and owner must cross the finish line ahead of the other competing teams.

Jolette enjoys the goat-dressing

contests. She won a ten-dollar second prize by dressing both herself and her goat as witches in the costume event.

"Like all kids, they get into trouble," said Jockquin Eveler about the interesting and very friendly goats. That trouble sometimes includes nibbling away at the shrubs and flowers around the family's home. One day, the goats got loose and found the feed supplies in the barn, munching down more than a half-bushel of oats before the Evelers could get them back into their pens. Joel is even teaching one of the goats to shake hands.

A special treat for Patches is candy. Just as soon as she hears the crackling of candy paper, she stops eating, perks up her long ears and comes looking for whatever sweets might have been wrapped in the crinkly paper.

All the goats also love to eat cookies and fruits, like apples and oranges, and vegetables like carrots and turnips. Out on pasture, they will nibble on not only grass, but shrubs and even briars and thorns, the Evelers have found. Because they enjoy and can digest all sorts of roughage, Joel and Jolette feed their goats fairly coarse, grass hay along with a sweet, high-protein, goat and sheep grain ration.

Since their goats give plenty of milk, Jolette decided some time ago to raise a baby calf on the goats' milk. She now wants to have her Simmental heifer bred so that she can raise more calves. Jolette also raises rabbits and is a member of the York 4-H Rabbit Club.

Tending and showing their animals are part of the diverse activities Joel and Jolette participate in as part of their home schooling program. Jolette is at the sixth-grade level and Joel is at the tenth-grade level of their studies, which include the use of computer and educational television.

The children also do many hands-on activities as part of their home schooling. Jolette enjoys cooking and Joel likes to work with equipment. He already owns a truck and a tractor and hopes to get into farming.

Someday, the Eveler family would like to construct facilities to enable them to milk and market the production from their does at their Country Critters farm. They also hope to continue expanding the goat herd to raise and market meat goats.



Jolette and Joel Eveler have their laps full with their five new kids.



These kids want to do anything but pose for a pesty photographer!

HIBERNATE THIS WINTER WITH WORD PUZZLES!

GAIL STROCK

To hibernate means to _____ all winter.

Food is stored in the animals' body as _____.

An animal's _____ lowers during hibernation.

During hibernation, an animal's _____ slows down greatly

Bats, chipmunks, ground squirrels, hamsters, and hedgehogs are examples of _____ that hibernate.

Nighthawks and swifts are examples of _____ that hibernate off and on throughout the winter.

Amphibians such as frogs and toads are _____.

Other cold-blooded hibernators are _____ such as lizards, snakes and turtles.

The body temperature of cold-blooded hibernators _____ with the temperature around them.

To arouse an amphibian or reptile from hibernation, the outside _____ must warm up enough to heat their bodies.

rises and falls

sleep

body temperature

warm-blooded mammals

birds

fat

cold-blooded hibernators

heartbeat and breathing

environment

reptiles