

# Kids Korner

## Barn Chores For Josiah

Nine-year-old Josiah Becker wrote this essay for a school assignment. His third-grade teacher at Bainbridge Elementary School sent a copy to us.

We think you will enjoy a glimpse into the life of a 9-year-old farm boy as much as we did.

Josiah is the son of Marlin and Doreen Becker who farm 200 acres in Elizabethtown and milk 55 Holsteins. Josiah has a sister, Kimberli, 7, and a brother, Christian, 2.

### The Barn Chores Josiah Becker

When I get off the bus, I need to go in the house to get ready to go

out to the barn.

Sometimes I have a snack first. I usually eat graham crackers or pretzels.

Now it is time to go out to the barn. I put on my boots and rubbers and fly out the door.

When I get in the barn, I go over to the third stable. We have six milkers. But we just use five when we do the third stable. The reason is because we have ten cows in that stable and we milk every other cow at a time. So when the third cow is about done then we wash the second cow.

We wash the cows so we can get the dirt off of their teets. Even if they aren't dirty, we still wash

them. We wash them with some teet dip spray and telephone papers.

When we are all done milking the cows we teet dip them. We teet dip the cows so no dirt gets in their teets. Then, when about 25 cows are done, my dad and I go out in the barnyard to put the heifers in. Then Mark and I let out all of the cows that are teet dipped.

After all the cows are out, we divide them into two places. Some at the feeder and some in the top two free stalls.

Then we open the gates and chase the rest of the cows in the barn. After all the cows are in the barn Mark and I tie the cows. Then we wash some cows and put the milkers on while I scrape the barn.

After a while, I climb up the haystack and throw down about 6 bales of straw and about 2 bales of hay. There are about 10 kittens in the haystack. Most of them do not like me. I take one bale of straw to the hog shed. I take the ropes off and then bed it around. Then I take 2 bales down below the hog shed.

They are bigger calves.

Sometimes I take 1 bale up to the calf hutches and sometimes I take a bale down to the calves near the silo.

After all the cows are done milking, we teet dip the cows and let them out. Some of the cows need to stay in the barn. Some of the cows get pills like aspirin and vitamins.

Then, after Mark left and all the milkers are washed, I scrape the barn. Then I shut the gate and turn out the light.



Josiah carries a straw bale to scatter in the calf pens.



Before milking the cows, Josiah washes the teets.



After the barn chores are finished and supper eaten, Josiah plays his favorite tune, "Foggy Mountain Break-down," on his banjo. Josiah has taken banjo lessons for three year and has performed in his school musical, local talent competitions, and for church and family gatherings. Josiah also enjoys reading, playing sports, drawing, and writing.



Barn chores often includes bottle feeding calves.



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