

Kids Korner

City Kids Learn About Farming

JINNY WILT
York/Adams Co.
Correspondent

BAIR (York Co.) — When you walked into the York County Ag Science Camp at the 4-H Center in Bair the Guernseys, Holsteins and Ayrshires were sitting quietly around tables waiting for their turn at the feed trough.

The Jerseys were already at the trough quickly filling their plates with roast chicken and all the trimmings.

It was lunch time for the 40 fourth and fifth grade, non-farm youngsters who had been divided into groups and, in the spirit of the camp, been given the names of dairy cattle.

Cleaning their plates, they took some time to relax and sing a few songs before dashing off in several directions to take part in workshops such as "Moody and The Cow Chips," which focused on dairy cows, "Udderly Delicious," where they made ice cream and picked strawberries, "Crafty Cows," where crafts were made to take along home, and "Fantastic

Foraging," which provided information on field crops and pest management.

The youngsters spent June 24-26 at the overnight camp sponsored by 4-H with the goal of teaching where food comes from. Many of the youth only see food in a grocery store and are not familiar with how it is grown and how farm animals are cared for.

Caring for the animals was high on the list of fun things to do. Leaders were surprised to learn when a survey revealed that the youth's favorite thing to do at camp was "chores."

Tricia Marsala, 10, a student at St. Joseph's Catholic School in York City, said she learned of the camp through a school project and wanted to attend.

"I think the chores are fun and I like to feed the animals and get them water. I also like to milk the goat," she exclaimed.

An enthusiastic Jamie Myers, kneeling on her chair and leaning across a table, her baseball hat turned backwards, said "It's fun and exciting. You never know



Susan Richardson, 14, a student at Kennard-Dale High School, leads a workshop on breeds of dairy cattle with Lauren Albright, 11, a student at Hannah Penn Middle School in York City School District, and Annmarie Campo, 10, a student at St. Joseph's Catholic School in York City. The youngsters were part of the York County Ag Science Camp for non-farm children held at the 4-H Center in Bair.



Students at Spring Grove Elementary School found the York County Ag Science Camp at the 4-H Center in Bair "fun and exciting."



Fourth and fifth graders who have had no previous contact with farming were invited to the York County Ag Science Camp at the 4-H Center in Bair June 24-26. Students were divided into groups and each named for a breed of cow. There were also groups named Guernseys, Ayrshire and Jerseys.

what's going to happen." The 11-year-old student at Spring Grove Elementary School particularly enjoyed the dilemma when the goat got loose and a counselor had to chase it.

For Heather West, 10, who will be going into Hannah Penn Middle School, she matter-of-factly explained, "They don't have cows running out in the city."

Jessica Lightcap, 10, a Phineas Davis Elementary School student in York City, liked everything about the camp and noted that while she had cats, dogs and a lizard at home, "We don't feed our animals hay."

Caring for a calf and doing chores was particularly fun for Andrea Schriver, 10, who is also a student at St. Joseph's Catholic School in York.

In the barn some of the animals the 4-H leaders had gathered included calves, a sow with piglets, chicks — that hatched during camp — goats, horses and a cow.

The youth took turns caring for the animals and learned that

despite 90 degree-plus temperatures a farmer can not ignore his or her charges.

Linda Spahr, Extension Agent — 4-H Dairy/Livestock, director of the camp, explained that many local farmers donated the animals to be used. The youngsters each got a chance to carry buckets of water and feed to the animals and clean up after them and give them fresh bedding.

Martin's Chips near Thomasville welcomed the youths, taking them on a tour and showing them how potato chips are made, after which Marsala, who had only ever seen chips in a bag on a store shelf, said "It takes a lot more work than I thought it would."

Trips were also scheduled to a J.E. Baker Farm where a well-known name at Christmas in York County — Strathmyer — grows some of its Christmas trees, and the Smyser Richlawn Dairy Farm where they toured the dairy and registered calves. Both of these farms are located on the East Berlin Road.

Michele Grove, 4-H animal science assistant, explained that 15

counselors who are 4-H team leaders, worked with the youth.

One of those counselors, Mark Parrish, 16, who lives north of Hallam, and attends York Catholic High School, said the fun he had working at the camp last year prompted him to take on the job again this year.

Parrish is a member of the East York Community Club and the York County Swine Club, both 4-H clubs.

Another counselor, Tabitha Eimerbrink, 16, of Lewisberry, and a member of Wellsville Boots and Saddles Club, brought her horses along to camp to add to the youngsters' experience.

The camp, she said emphatically, "Gives city kids a chance to learn where food comes from and it's not a store shelf."

Some of the other activities the youngsters took part in were Barnyard Olympics, a camp fire, using computers, and watching films on the production of foods.

The camp was also a bargain costing each child only \$10 because York County 4-H received a grant from the national 4-H Council.

Rib-Ticklin' Fun For Kids At Rib Cook-Off

YORK (York Co.) — Kids of all ages will find lots to do at the fourth annual Keystone National Rib Cook-Off and Music Fest, scheduled July 24-27 at the York Fairgrounds, including "Kid's Place" — a wonderland of educational, entertaining and instructional activities that are sure to capture children's attention.

Kid's Place will feature:

- Farm Fun Activities including: "Farmer-for-a-Day," where children learn exactly where the food on the grocer's shelf comes from.
- "Create-a-Scarecrow" lets kids and adults work together to make scarecrows from materials supplies.
- "The Grocery Game" encourages parents and children to cooperate while matching a cart full of groceries to the appropriate farm crop. The "Hay Maze" pro-

vides fun for all who are up for the challenge.

•The York County Parks Discovery Center will be on hand to amaze and intrigue all the young thinkers. Moms and Dads will be surprised at what they can learn too!

•Ray Owen, Sadie Green Sales Jug Band and Tall Tex will entertain as they stroll throughout the fairgrounds.

- Amusement Rides
- Petting Barnyard
- Clowns

Hours for Kid's Place are

Thursday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Saturday from 1:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Sunday from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Hours for the four-day rib cook-off are Thursday, July 24 and Friday, July 25 from 4 p.m. to closing, and Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27 from noon to closing.

Admission is \$4 on Thursday and Friday and \$6 on Saturday and Sunday for adults (includes all musical entertainment) and free for children 12 and under. Parking is free.

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