

Kids Korner



MHS Agricultural and Environmental Education Program Staff Member Mike Waybright helped students (left to right) Adzua Agyapon, Jill Diegel, and their classmates snip the heads of sunflowers so their third-grade enrichment class could harvest, package, and sell the seeds as part of a lesson on product development.



Little Hanna Risser makes friends with one of her family's steers. Like all fourteen-month-old girls Hanna is curious about everything around the farm. She is the daughter of Mike and Josie Risser, Gettysburg, and you can read more about her family starting the front page of this issue.

Students Harvest Seeds, Reap Lessons In Development

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — A group of third-grade enrichment students at Milton Hershey School recently became entrepreneurs when they harvested seeds from flowers grown on campus and prepared them for "market."

"The kids found out what happens to a product—all the processes it goes through-to get to the store," said MHS Memorial Hall Teacher Kathy Luciotti.

For example, students studied flower seeds already on the market to determine the number so seeds contained in most packets and decided on a number for their own packets, which they designed and created themselves. They also designed a display case from which they sold the seeds. Classroom discussions on how to market the product included indentifying buyers, setting prices, and deciding what should be done with profits.

Students sold seeds in the Memorial Hall lobby during lunch to staff and students. With the profits, each student was able to purchase and donate gloves and a hat for a homeless

child at the Kettering Shelter in Lebanon.

After a student inquired about selling more seeds in a bigger market, Luciotti called upon Director of Technology Transfer at Hershey Medical Center Dr. David Paterson to give students some advice on getting a trademark for their flower seeds.

Paterson, who secures patents for HMC, explained patents, trademarks, and copyrights to the students and described the process they would need to follow to trademark a name for their flower seeds.

During Paterson's visit, students thought of possible names and symbols to use as a trademark, as well as some advertising slogans. Once students agree on a brand name and logo, the class plans to actually apply for the trademark.

In addition, Luciotti said the students may be able to sell some of their seeds at the Senior Hall student-run flower shop, "The Flower Pot."

Looking ahead to the end result, Luciotti said, "They will truly understand the

process of getting a product on the shelf and the number of people it takes to do so."



Do you think this old cow took care of her teeth?
How many cavities does she have?

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Why are so many winter clothes made with wool?

Wool's twisty, water-soaking fibers make great clothes to keep you warm.

First, some baaaaa-ckground. Wool is made from sheep's hair, called fleece. Farmers collect fleece by shearing the animals once a year, usually in the spring. (Think of shearing as a flat top haircut for sheep.)

Wool fibers are naturally wavy. If you looked at a single fiber of wool under a microscope, you'd see that fiber make zig-zag patterns in every direction. Our textile friends call these patterns "crimp." When wool fibers are spun into yarns and then woven together, the microscopic crimp creates air pockets in the fabric. The trapped air holds heat that escapes from your body, insulating you against cold weather.

Now, think about days when it's going to snow or rain, but it hasn't yet. Those are days with a lot of moisture in the air. Wool has the special ability to absorb that moisture, just like some people's hair on humid days. But wool has a special trick — it can absorb 30 percent of its weight in moisture and still not feel wet. And if you and your wool coat get completely soaked in a heavy downpour, the wool will feel dry more quickly than other materials.

So wool naturally keeps you — and grazing sheep — from feeling chilly!

Scientifically yours,
Twig

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Have a question?
Send me E-mail:
Femail: sqwaz@ohio-state.edu