

Kids Korner

Dairy Farmers Find Triplicity A Blessing

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — A young dairy farming family of three, has found that triplicity in other aspects of their life also can be counted as a blessing.

Allen and Eileen Heagy, who have an 18-month-old son, Kevin, have been dairy farming on their own for two years on a 55-acre farm just north of Lebanon city.

Recently, one of their mostly grade Holsteins gave birth to triplets.

While that isn't necessarily a blessing for dairy purposes, Allen said he intends to keep the two bull calves for six months to raise for sale as feeders, and the heifer calf may join the rest of their 70-head milking string, although heifers tend to be sterile if part of a multi-

ple birth.

Allen said that in his family the set of triplets was a first. "Mom and dad said they don't remember every having any."

His parents, David and June Heagy, dairy farm in South Annville. They ship milk to Mt. Joy Farmers Cooperative.

The father of the triplets is a locally purchased bull.

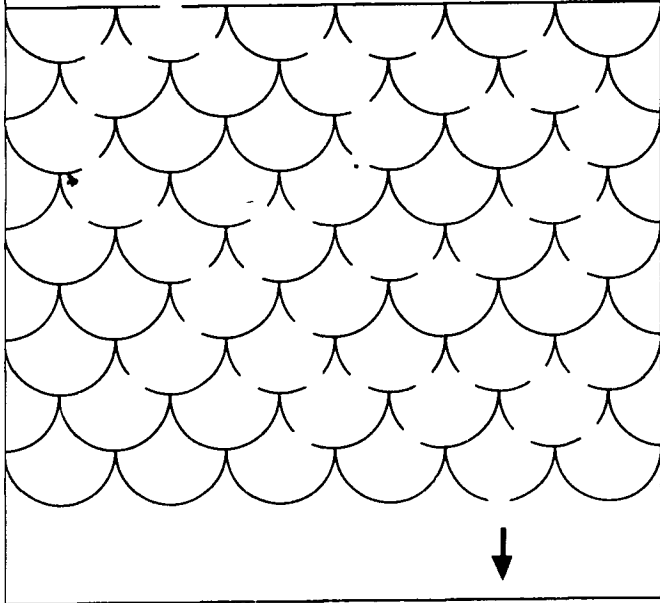
That may prevent Allen from registering the offspring, which may prevent him from getting a higher price on heifers or bulls, but he said he is getting good milking cows by using only local bulls that come from dams with records of 35,000 pounds milk or more and those that classify at 90 points or better.



Allen and Eileen Heagy and son Kevin show the triplet calves born to one of their grade Holstein cows in their 70-head milking string.

MAZE

Start Here ↓ Help the bird find his way down the roof.



SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

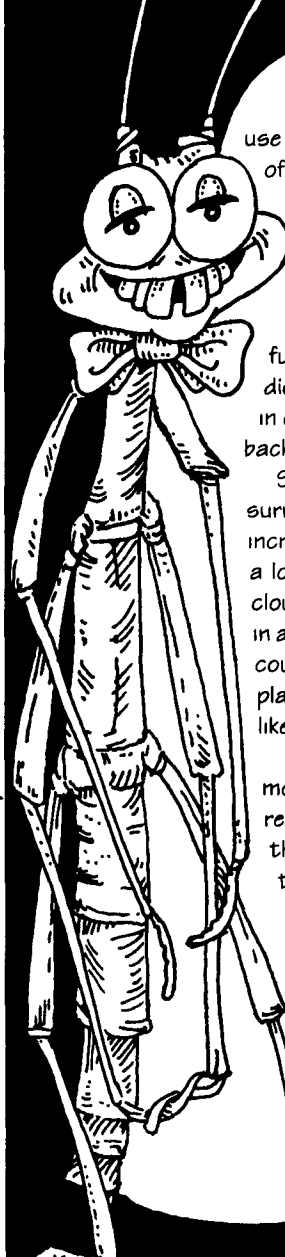
- | | | |
|-------|----------|--------|
| CALF | DUCKLING | KITTEN |
| CHICK | FAWN | LAMB |
| COLT | JOEY | POULT |
| CUB | KID | PUPPY |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

W E T R Y P O D I X
 K C U B L P O U L T
 J H H G D S A C A C
 K I T T E N N K M M
 B C V C D F T L B Y
 P K I D J F O I I U
 L H F C O L T N D S
 U Y T R E A W G Q A
 P U P P Y C Z A S D
 I O P M G F A W N F

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK



Why is acid rain so bad?

Let's start with the acids — and the bases. Scientists use a scale of one to 14, called pH, to measure the strength of something when it's dissolved in water. Acids have a pH of one to 6.9. Seven is neutral. At the other end of the scale are the bases. They cancel out the acids. Lime (the kind that's part of fertilizer and a type of stone — not the fruit) is a base, because it has a pH above seven.

Rainfall has always been slightly acidic. But burning fossil fuels such as coal and oil releases sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide gases into the air. These gases react with the water in clouds to make sulfuric acid and nitric acid, which then fall back to Earth as acid rain.

Some lands, like Ohio, are rich with high-sulfur coal. The surrounding ecosystem naturally balances out potential acid increase. Ohio's water tends to have a basic pH, and there is a lot of lime in its rockbed. But once sulfuric acid is in the clouds, wind can carry it thousands of miles. Then, if it rains in an area without natural buffers, there's a chance the acid could build up in ponds, streams and soil. That disrupts the plants in the water, the fish, and the animals that eat fish, like birds and bears.

Refineries and factories use coal or oil because it's the most economical, efficient way to deliver energy. They've reduced the problem by installing special ways to collect the sulfur before it's released into the air. You can help, too, by conserving energy. That way, you reduce the amount of energy — and the coal-burning — needed in the first place.

Scientifically yours,

Twig

