

Kids Korner

Sheep And Wool Day At Springton Manor Farm

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) - It's time for the sheep at Springton Manor Farm to lose their winter wool, and you, your family and friends are invited to the shearing. Springton's annual Sheep and Wool Day is Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The free educational event will feature demonstrations of sheep shearing and animal care as well as sheep herding by trained border collies.

Pete Brummer of Port Royal will conduct the sheep shearing demonstrations while Sharon Nunan of Eagle along with area trainers will put sheep herding dogs through their paces in an informal competition.

Spinning and weaving demonstrations by Anne Bates, Gradyville, and Helen Fletcher, Broomall, will be included as well as "Harley the Clown" and a special children's corner with farm-related activities, led by the Friends of Springton Manor Farm.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Michael McGrath of West Chester.

Free educational materials from backyard sheep management, breeds and history will be available as well as samples of sheep milk cheese, recipes for mutton and lamb and wool products.

During your visit, you can explore Springton's interpretive nature trail, farm pond and antique farm museum. You can also stroll through the entire farm complex which houses pigs, cows, chickens, horses and more. Exhibits of farming and agriculture are throughout the demonstration farm. Since Sheep and Wool Day is a spring event, it's also a great opportunity to see all the newborn animals including lambs and chicks.

While attending Sheep and Wool Day, visitors are encouraged to support the Chester County Food Providers Network who will be collecting canned goods and other non-perishable foodstuffs at the park. The Network is an informal coalition of persons representing organizations involved with feeding individuals and families at risk of hunger. Volunteers will collect and sort the donations, and transfer them to local food cupboards for distribution to those in need.

Sheep and Wool Day is a free event; food will be available for purchase from Hopewell Boy Scout Troop #8 and the Friends of Springton Manor Farm. Springton Manor Farm is five miles west of Downingtown, off Route 322 in Guthriesville. For information and directions, call (610)942-2450.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Why are frogs so noisy?

During spring breeding season, male frogs and toads serenade female frogs with a musical symphony of croaks, squeaks and buzzes.

There are nearly 3,500 different kinds of frogs in the world, and each species makes its own special sound. Female frogs follow the sounds to where the males are waiting. There could be a lot of different kinds of frogs and toads at a pond or stream during breeding season, so the unique songs also help the females find the male frogs from her own species.

There are a handful of frogs, though, that don't have eardrums. That's the part of the ear the frogs, and you, need to hear clearly. One species, called Golden Frogs, live near noisy, fast-flowing streams in forests in Panama.

They make up for their lack of hearing in a couple of ways, according to zoologists at Ohio State University. The 2-inch long Golden Frogs use a kind of sign language to attract mates and protect their territory. For example, they will rotate their front legs in a slow, circular motion at the sight or sound of another Golden Frog.

That's right — although these frogs don't have eardrums, they do recognize sounds. The zoologists think the frogs' lungs, which are located very close to the skin, vibrate the sounds through the frogs' body.

If you don't think that's possible, put your hand on a stereo speaker when wearing ear plugs. You feel the vibrations of the music, even though you can't hear the words — just like Golden Frogs "hear" sounds around them.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

BANANA	KIWI	ORANGE
COCONUT	KUMQUAT	PAPAYA
GRAPEFRUIT	LEMON	PINEAPPLE
GUAVA	MANGO	TANGERINE

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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

MAZE

Start Here →

April Showers

FISH THAT CAN ZAP

DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE ABOUT 500 SPECIES OF FISH THAT CAN DISCHARGE ELECTRIC CURRENTS? THESE FISH HAVE ORGANS, OR BODY PARTS, THAT ALLOW THEM TO DO JUST THAT. THE FISH USE ELECTRIC SHOCK TO CAPTURE PREY, FOR PROTECTION AND TO GUIDE THEM THROUGH THE DARK WATER.

THE MOST WELL-KNOWN ELECTRIC FISH INCLUDE THE ELECTRIC RAY, THE ELECTRIC EEL, THE ELEPHANT FISH AND EVEN SOME CATFISH.

MOST OF THE TIME, THE ELECTRIC SHOCK IS NOT VERY POWERFUL, BUT THE FISH RELEASE IT IN A SERIES OF PULSES. ELECTRIC RAYS USUALLY ONLY DISCHARGE 50 TO 60 VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY. BUT THE BIG ZAP COMES FROM THE ELECTRIC EEL, WHICH CAN PRODUCE MORE THAN 600 VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY. THAT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO KILL SMALL ANIMALS AND STUN LARGER ANIMALS AND PEOPLE.

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

April Showers

Start Here →

NO MORE COOKIE DOUGH!

The days of sticking our fingers in the cookie dough for an oh-so-good bite of the uncooked stuff are over — or should be. Salmonella food poisonings, which can and do kill people, have risen at an alarm-

ing rate, and cookie dough (as well as the dough from other baked goods that contain uncooked eggs) — can be a salmonella source.

To prevent this type of food poisoning, refrigerate eggs promptly, keeping them in their

original carton and using them within two weeks at the latest; refrain from eating anything that contains raw eggs; completely cook dishes that contain eggs, such as French toast or omelets; use egg substitutes when making Caesar salad dressing, egg nog or homemade mayonnaise.