

# Kids Korner

## Farm Is Cat Heaven For 60 Cats

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KUTZTOWN (Berks Co.) —  
Cat lovers are in cat heaven when they visit the Davis family in Kutztown.

Sixty felines of all colors and markings roam the farmland. The cats and kittens are healthy, plump bundles of fur that are pampered and cuddled despite the family's busyness of caring for 140 Holsteins and farming 135 tillable acres.

Amazingly, each of the 60 felines has a name and is easily differentiated from its peers.

"Each cat has its only territory," Aaron said of the ground the cats cover in obliterating mice. The family keeps close tabs on the whereabouts of each cat and notices that the felines are as reliable as clockwork in reporting to "mouse duty."

"At 4 o'clock every afternoon this one comes out of the meadow, and this one comes out of the field," Aaron explained.

According to 6-year-old Jillian,

the cats follow the cows into the barn and snuggle atop them for a snooze.

The whole family—including parents Luther and Teresa—spend time playing with the cats. "It's a good stress reliever," Jillian's mom said of the enjoyable way to relax after a hard day's work on the farm.

On the second floor of the barn, Jillian and Aaron have a play area.

In addition to the cats, Jillian has a horse—well, not exactly. Her horse Pegasus is an imaginary horse that goes everywhere with her. She was holding tight to the reins to keep him from running away while telling a visitor about her horse.

Jillian takes dancing lessons to study tap and ballet. She likes to help her older sister Erica feed the calves.

Not all the fun happens in the barn or outside. Inside the house, Aaron, a gifted pianist can often be heard playing music. Again, demonstrating her vivid imagination, Jillian plays drums, which she

devised by tapping on an old table.

Aaron also likes to paint and built things with his set of K'Nex. When his sister Erica was Berks County dairy princess, Aaron and his older brother Gregory took over her barn chores. Now Aaron likes to be in charge of feeding the calves. He has three cows of his own, which he named after the Japanese exchange students who stayed with the family.

Older brother Gregory plays volleyball on the high school team and is a 9th grade student at Kutztown High School, where he participates in FFA. On Sunday, Gregory can always be found listening to the car races broadcast on the radio.

Daview Farm is one big happy family of children, cows, cats, and dogs. While the barn thrives with cows, cats, and dogs, home is domain for the family.

"The most important part of our farm is the kids—not the cows or cats—although we are proud of what we accomplished here," Teresa said. "We wanted to do everything we can to get them started on the right foot."

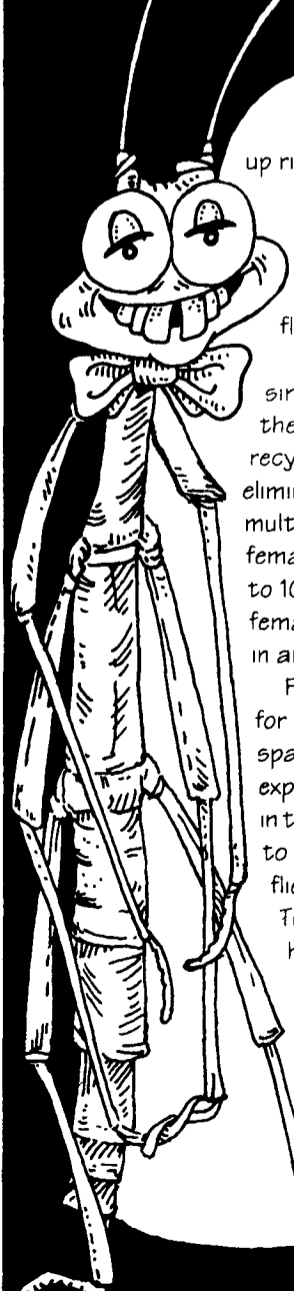


Aaron, 9, and Jillian, 5, play with a few of the 60 cats on the Davis farm. Each cat is named and easily identified by all family members.

## MILK AMERICA'S HEALTH KICK

# Smart Stuff

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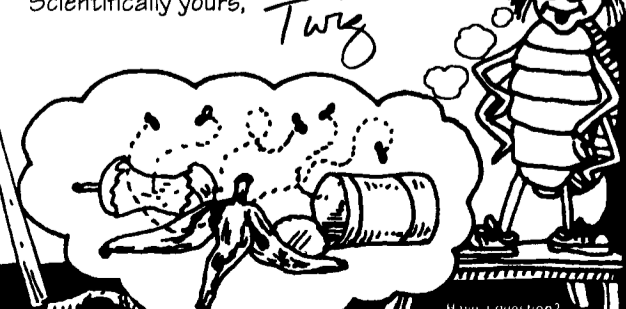
### Where do fruit flies come from?

Those pesky flying insects have a knack for showing up right when your bananas go from ripe to over-ripe. Our entomology friends at Ohio State think fruit flies hitch a ride into your house as eggs on the surface of fruit or vegetables. (Don't worry—you won't get sick if you eat them.) Fruit flies are also so small they can fly through most screens.

Over-ripe fruit, along with things such as standing sink water, vegetable peelings that didn't make it down the disposal, and empty, uncleaned food cans in your recycling bin, are magnets to fruit flies. If you don't eliminate these sources of food for the fruit flies, they will multiply at a very rapid rate. That's because a single female lays about 500 eggs, and the life cycle is about 8 to 10 days in warm weather. So, every 10 days, an adult female lays eggs. Her offspring, in turn, lay even more eggs in another 10 days.

Fruit flies aren't all bad, though. Scientists use them for genetic studies because they have such a short life span and have so many offspring. They are even used for experiments in high school science classes. And, if you live in the northern parts of the United States, you won't have to worry about seeing any until next spring—fruit flies can't survive the cold northern temperatures. They migrate north each spring from their vacation homes in the warm, sunny South.

Scientifically yours, Twig



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Have a question?  
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Not only is 9-year-old an accomplished pianist, but he also enjoys building things with K'Nex. Here he built a grand piano with a pianist on the stool.