

# Twin Valley Aquaculture

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will allow the installation of special forced water systems to ensure improved heating.

In all, about 39 students are involved in aquaculture studies, which provides one credit in agriculture and science, over a two-semester (one year) period. All students, as part of aquaculture, learn how to set up and maintain a tank, learn water nutrient and quality requirements (testing all year long for oxygen availability and water quality), and understand fish species. Students must learn how to identify and breed fish species and care for them until market.

One of the species includes Cichlids, or white tropical fish imported from Africa or South America. The aggressive fish do well under hard water conditions — the type of water available to the facility.

Jacqi Hartung, 11th grader at Twin Valley, maintains a tank of the fast, aggressive Cichlids at the school.

Students also learn about other aquatic life, including macro-invertebrates (water insects), crayfish, and other species, including reptiles and amphibians. They learn to identify and maintain a variety of species including, of course, turtles.

The purpose of the class is to teach students all about "aquatic resources," said Dietrich. "They learn to manage them. I like them to see what goes into it, what they can do."

Some students may choose aquaculture as a career.

"I can see some going to work for the largest provider of fresh water fish, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, working for them," he noted. "Some may want to

study marine biology. Some study environmental science in college." The course provides an introduction to general knowledge about several aquaculture-related fields.

Jeff McCoy, 12th grader, helped to load up a pickup truck filled with an ice drum with about 30-50 catfish, being transported to market.

"They spent a lot of time in the big tank and the raceways," McCoy noted.

Angela Brent plans to enter college, perhaps Rutgers, to study zoology. Amy Kline enjoys working with animals and wants to learn more about animal science. Beth Zerr, who accompanied Angela and Amy to the pond Tuesday, wants to study to be an animal veterinarian.

In the meantime, Twin Valley's ag science program is experiencing renovations.

A proposed new 1,200 square foot aquaculture room is due for construction sometime in June. An animal room will include about 1,000 square feet of space. A power shop will occupy another 1,700 square feet. Two new classrooms will divide the ag area in half, with about 1,000 square feet of space

each. The greenhouse will double in size.

The proposed facilities will take about a half year to complete and be ready in January or February of next year, according to Dietrich.

All photos by Andy Andrews

## Farm Safety Camp

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — A free one day, Farm Safety Camp will be held at the Ephrata Memorial Park on Saturday June 13, for farm children between the ages of 8 and 13. Children will be able to participate in activities related to safe living, playing and working on farms. Each year many farm children are injured or killed as a result of a farm accident. Between 1990 and 1994, 13 persons living in Lancaster County lost their life as a result of a farm injury. In Pennsylvania, children 14 years of age and under accounted for 31 of the 101 fatalities between 1990 and 1994.

This is the fourth annual Farm Safety Day Camp sponsored by the Lancaster County Safe Kids Coalition. Children will have the opportunity to learn about hidden hazards on the farm, safe use of propane, fire safety, lawn mower and weedeater safety, small power tool safety, grain bins, and other confined space hazards, animal safety, farm equipment safety, water safety and how to use 911 to report an emergency.

Breakfast, lunch and other snacks will be provided during the day.

Parents who bring their children to the camp are invited to stay for a special parents program. It will include information on county-wide emergency assistance, age appropriate tasks for children, keeping children safe around farm equipment, and first aid.

Farm families can register to attend the one day safety camp by sending the name, age and adult T-shirt size for each child wishing to attend along with the home mailing address, and home phone number to Naomi Johnson, 252 West Farmersville Road, Leola, PA 17540. Parents who are staying should also state that on the registration. Late registration will be accepted if space is available.

This is a community education program of the Lancaster County SAFE KIDS Coalition a partnership with St. Joseph's Hospital and through grants from the PA Department of Agriculture, Core States Bank and Cargill. All farm children are invited to attend.



Angela Brent plans to enter college, perhaps Rutgers, to study zoology. She points out the bullfrogs evident in the pond.

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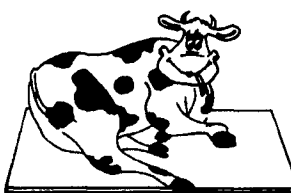
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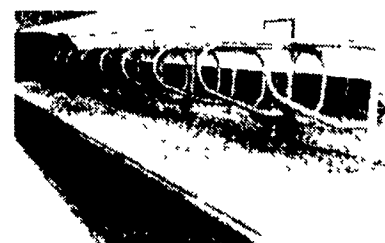
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