

# Kids Korner



After the tour, kids get to eat fresh-picked peaches.

## Kids See Connection Between Farm And Food

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YORK SPRINGS — That bee in their urban backyard might seem like a nuisance, and the slow-paced tractor on the road ahead might be annoying, but 60 Adams County youngsters learned that these are all part of what brings food to their dinner table.

Taking part in the Adams County Agricultural Science Day, Camp sponsored Aug. 10-11 by the Penn State Extension Office, the youngsters arrived at Bermudian Springs Middle School, which opened its doors for the program.

From the school on the first day the youngsters were bused in two groups to a tour of Hollabaugh Fruit Farm where they rode in a large wagon pulled by a tractor through the orchards.

Hollabaughs, in business, since 1955, showed off some of its 500 acres of apple, peach, pear and plum orchards and a few of its 11 irrigation ponds.

Extension office staffer Jeannie Plotica explained, as she bounced along the trail through the orchards, that "the ag program, when advertised filled up quickly. We limited it to 60 and of those registering only 12 are already in 4-H," she said.

"This is an effort to expose farming to those who haven't experienced it," she continued.

Joined by John Wardle, agricultural teacher at Bermudian Springs, the two spoke of the importance of letting youngsters see where their food comes from. Plotica noted that many people are moving into Adams County from urban areas and complaining



Kids ride the tractor-pulled wagon through the Hollabaugh Fruit Farm orchards, north of Biglerville, Adams County. About 60 kids participated in the Agricultural Science Day Camp sponsored by Penn State Extension Office.

about the smells and activities of the farming community. "They don't understand that this is a rural community and this is all part of it," she said.

"It is our hope that these youngsters as they grow up might remember when they see that bee in their backyard that it is necessary for pollination, and that the farmer needs to move from field to field, and that they might have more respect for farming," Plotica said.

Wardle said earlier in the day that the group toured Kimes Cider Mill, just up the road from Hollabaugh on Route 34, and were

able to see peaches go from fresh raw fruit to a processed product.

"It's important for them to make the connection between the farm and their food," he said.

After lunch at Oak Side Park, the youngsters traveled back to Bermudian Springs where they prepared peaches to make jam and learned about nutrition labels and what they mean. They prepared their own nutrition labels for their jam.

On Aug. 11, the youngsters once again boarded their buses, this time to tour Buttercup Dairy Farm near East Berlin where they

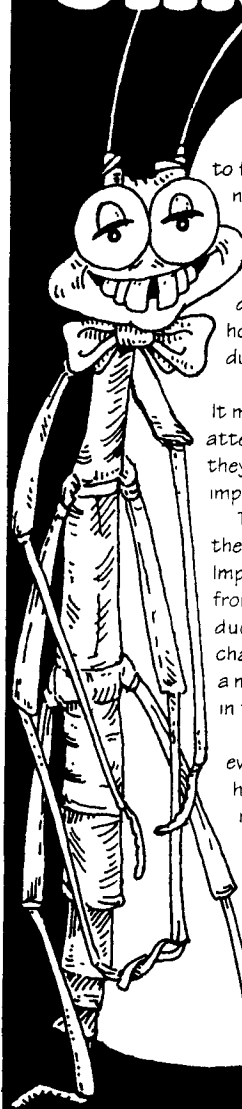
took a hayride and fed calves before visiting the Buttercup Market with its abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables.

After lunch they went onto Ke-Holtz Dairy located along Route 234 west of East Berlin where they observed a 24-hour dairy in action. After this tour the youth returned to Bermudian Springs where they made ice cream. This treat was topped with peaches and served to the youngsters and parents, Plotica said.

She explained that the ag science program took the place this year of the farm safety camp.

## Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK



### Why do ducklings follow their mother?

The mother duck doesn't have to order her ducklings to follow her in a row. Instead, she gets a little help from nature.

Unlike songbirds that are helpless and completely dependent on their parents for food and shelter, ducks, geese and other waterfowl chicks are fairly developed when they hatch. Most can walk within a few hours. And, the curious duckling might wander off. So, the ducklings "imprint" on their mom.

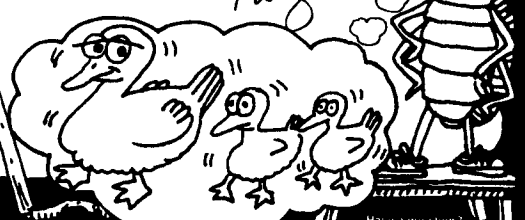
Imprint is a term used by biologists and other scientists. It means that very young animals learn by fixing all of their attention on the first thing they see, touch or feel after they hatch. In mallard ducklings and domestic chicks, imprinting must take place within the first few hours of life.

This unique way of learning keeps the ducklings next to their mother, where she can keep a protective eye on them. Imprinting also helps ducklings recognize their own mother from other adults of the same species, and it helps the ducklings learn who to socialize with and what characteristics to seek out in future mates. That means a mallard will only look to mate with another mallard, which in turn keeps the species alive.

A duckling might imprint on another species — even you — in cartoons and movies. That really can happen in a laboratory setting. But in the wild, misimprinting is pretty rare. Momma duck makes sure she's there to see her ducklings hatch!

Scientifically yours,

Twig



Typical of the visitors at Elizabethtown Fair are these who make attendance a tradition. Nancy Shenk, grandmother; with daughter Michele Shenk, left, and children Kelly, 20 months, and Cody, 4, and another daughter Patti Snyder and her son Craig Snyder, 13.