

# Kids Korner

## Farm Learning Center Is Educational Petting Zoo

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**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) -- What do 16 animals, a bunch of chicks, and colorful posters have in common?

They're all part of the Farm Learning Center. The Penn State Students For Responsible Use Of Animals (SRUA) host the exhibit each year at the Farm Show.

The Farm Learning Center features a petting zoo with an educational twist. Children of all ages come to learn about farm animals and the products they provide.

In its 10th year, the Farm Learning Center highlighted the by-products produced from animals. A by-product is something that is made through the production of something else.

Cosmetics, shampoo, medicines, pet food, and even crayons are all by-products that come from animals.

"Our theme this year was 'Animals Are Everywhere,'" said SRUA Club Adviser Brenda Coe. "There's a lot of things people don't think about that come from animals."

For instance, dice used in board games originally were made from animal horns. Lanolin, an ingredient used in hand creams and conditioners, is the greasy substance found in sheep's wool.

The SRUA Club students and advisers spend the entire week at Farm Show. They answer questions and hand out information to the thousands of people who line up to see the animals.

"A lot of kids come back

each year looking for specific animals," said Coe. "They remember the ponies that we've had over the years and ask 'Where are they?'"

The goal of the Farm Learning Center is to educate people who are not from farms about animals.

The nonfarm crowd now makes up the largest portion of those attending Farm Show. The students who staff the exhibit show Farm Show visitors how farm animals are used responsibly and what role they play in our lives.

While local farmers provide the animals, SRUA students and advisers put together the displays and make posters about each animal.

Stephanie Herr, a sophomore in animal bioscience, has spent two years in the SRUA Club. She helps at the Farm Learning Center each year.

Herr also helps with the club's other projects, including pet therapy. Pet therapy is a program that involves the students taking dogs and cats into nursing homes and daycare centers.

"It's proven that pets help lower blood pressure and make people happy," said Herr.

She enjoys helping with the Farm Learning Center. "I hold the bunnies and baby animals for people to pet, put animals in front of the people so they can touch them, and answer questions," said Herr.

For Herr, being a part of the SRUA Club is rewarding because it's about respecting animals and using them responsibly. She feels

the Farm Learning Center works well because it's hands-on.

"Kids respond really well to soft animals," said Herr. "They love to touch them."

One of the most exciting things that happened at the Farm Learning Center was when a sheep had a baby lamb in front of a crowded audience in 1999.

Herr was really excited this year to see if one of the pigmy goats would have her babies. "She is due this week," said Herr.

"If she has her babies, it's one of the most educational things that can happen here."

Both Herr and Coe admit to being asked questions by people who are concerned about the care of farm animals.

"Most often they just don't understand the reasons why an animal is cared for a certain way," said Coe. "Once we explain the reasons why, they have a better appreciation for the procedure."

For instance, being on the second concourse of the Farm Large Arena, students at the Farm Learning Center have been asked why draft horses have to pull the cart and if it hurts them.

The students explain that the horses are trained as athletes just like people are trained for the Olympics. The horses actually enjoy the competition.

The Farm Learning Center grows in popularity each year, drawing thousands of people and having constant lines at the exhibit.

"We went for being 'Oh, what is this?' to actually being on the Farm Show map," said Coe.

While the kids watch and pet the animals, parents can read over the posters above the pens and learn more about animal care.

At the end of the exhibit, everyone gets an animal stamp on their hand. Brochures on animal care and animal by-products from the People For Responsible Use Of Animals (PRUA) are also available.



Suane Jacobs of York County greets the pigmy goat at the Farm Learning Center during Farm Show.



"Spooker," a 35-year-old pony, has spent the last several years at the Farm Learning Center.

**WELCOME**  
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## New Millennium

Is it or is it not the new millennium? Well, according to NASA scientists, the new millennium actually starts January 1, 2001.

That's because there is no "0" year. Instead, the first millennium started January 1, 1. The first millennium ended 1,000 years later on December 31, 1000. The second millennium started January 1, 1001, and will end 1,000 years later on December 31, 2000.

These dates are based on the calendar that is used around the world. It is called the Gregorian calendar. In the 500s or sixth century, a scholar named Dionysius Exiguus organized a table of dates of Easter, and he set up the Gregorian calendar.

The beginning of this year will bring about many changes. For instance, ask an adult you know if you can look at his/her checkbook. If the date area in the upper right-hand corner of the check has 19., that person is going to have to get new checks.

However, more people are concerned about the Y2K—Year • Two • 1000—computer problems that may come. Many computer systems have only two digits when it comes to showing a year, like "48" for 1948. Because of this, people are concerned that the "00" for the year 2000 will be read as the year 1900 instead.

## SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

ARCTIC	COLD	ICY
BRISK	COOL	NIPPY
BRUMAL	FRIGID	POLAR
CHILLY	FROSTY	WINTRY

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

C H I L L U F H Y N

B R I B R U M A L E

R D R E W D W Q L A

N I P P Y L I D I S

F G F R G O N H H J

R I L A R C T I C K

O R M L N B R I S K

S F R O S T Y C O L

T B V P C Z C O O L

I F R I G D I N I P

## HIDDEN PICTURE

Color in each space that contains a letter.