

Kids Korner



A crowd gathers around the sheep shearing demonstration at last year's celebration.



For some children, this is the only chance they get to touch farm animals.

Celebrate Farm & City Day At Museum

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Watch a chick hatch, a sheep being sheared, and a planetarium show — all in the same day.

This unusual combination of activities is planned to help people who live in the cities and on the farm understand each other's lifestyles.

Called Farm and City Day, the special celebration is scheduled for May 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The location is the North Museum, 400 College Ave., Lancaster.

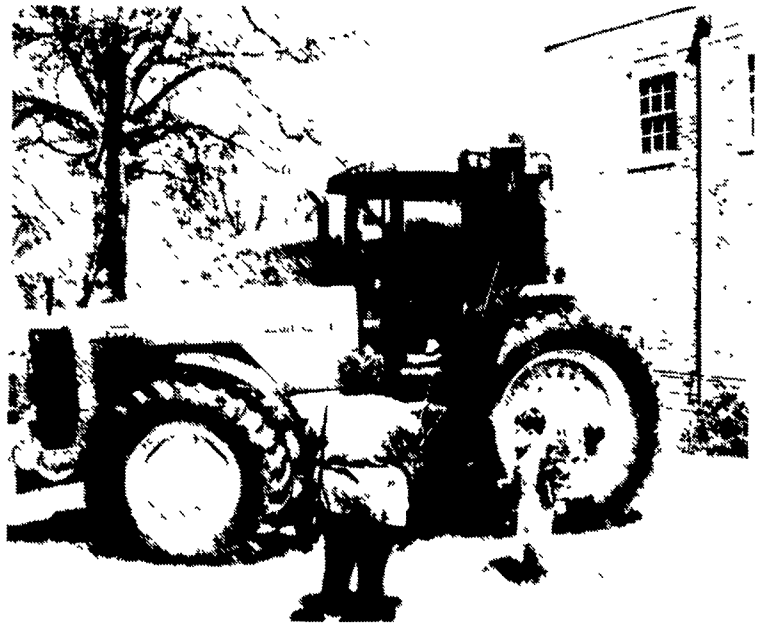
An outside tent will be set up on the museum grounds to house a farmyard petting zoo and farm equipment display. Some tent activities and exhibits include incubating and hatching chicken eggs, sheep sheering, understanding water tables, corn shucking, and even a photo opportunity with ponies. Plenty of food such as ice cream and chicken barbecue will be available.

Inside the museum, another world awaits. At 10:30 a.m. you can find out about rainbows and

conditions that form them. Visit the dinosaurs, stop by the science cart, or take up the challenge of a museum scavenger hunt. Three planetarium shows, considered the most advanced and the third largest in the state, will be shown in the afternoon.

Tent and outside activities are free for the entire family. Regular admission will be charged for the museum and planetarium.

For more information, call the museum at (717) 291-3941.



Kids get a chance to climb over tractors during Farm & City Day.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Why are some lilies extra tall?

The pretty, white flowers sold around Easter time are supposed to be short, stocky and dark green. But sometimes the lilies have to compete with others for light — and they stretch out in the process.

Commercial flower growers raise lilies and other potted plants on benches that are about waist high in greenhouses. To grow as many flowers as possible — and yield the most profits — growers put as many pots on a bench as they can.

That's where the problem starts. But to completely understand what happens, you first need some background on light. The sun's visible light spectrum — which you can see — ranges from red to violet. Plants also use the sun's far-red and ultraviolet light, which you can't see.

Plants use sunlight to make energy through a process called photosynthesis. (Say photo-SIN-thi-sis.) On a crowded greenhouse bench, leaves on the bottom half of the lily plants can't get enough visible light for photosynthesis because the top leaves block it all. Without the visible light, the far-red light can reach the plants' leaves. For some as-of-yet-undiscovered reason, the far-red light triggers a switch in the plant to grow tall and spindly.

Growers try to control these reactions with chemicals. But floriculturists at Ohio State University and Clemson University are working on ways to filter out the far-red light at the roof of the greenhouse. The results work — and it's a lot less work for the growers, and a lot better for the environment!

Scientifically yours, *Twig*

Have a question? Send me E-mail: Twig@agvax2.ag.ohio-state.edu

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Last year's Lancaster County Dairy Princess Audra Wood with the help of dairy darlings handed out got milk stickers and other freebies to visitors of Farm & City Day.