

Kids Korner



Unity welcomes her triplets born April 18.



Tiffany, 9, and Taylor, 4, help keep these squirmy triplets in place for a photograph.

Tiffany Writes About Triplets Born On Grandpa's Farm

Hi.
My name is Tiffany Hoffman. I am 9 years old and a member of Western Berks 4-H Dairy Club.
I live down the road from Grandma and Grandpa Stump (John and Rita). They have a dairy farm and I go over almost every day. I help my aunt milk sometimes.
Just recently, something un-

sual happened. For the first time in grandpa's life, a set of triplets were born. They arrived on April 18, which was only 10 days early.
There are two heifers and one bull. The heifers look like twins, but the bull has more black so it doesn't look like the heifers.
All the babies are doing great including the mother.



Chow time for the triplets.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

How do walkingsticks hide?
Twig didn't get his name by accident — walkingsticks are perfectly designed to blend into the twiggy branches where they live. Combine their twig-like shape with their color-changing tricks, and walkingsticks are a moving camouflage machine!

All insects have a layer of cells, called the epidermis. (It's the insect form of people's skin.) It forms a plastic-like covering called the cuticle, or exoskeleton. Some insects, such as Bob and his beetle buddies, have a thick, hardened cuticle that forms a permanent shell. Other insects keep their cuticle thin and flexible.

That's where the camouflage comes in. Walkingsticks get most of their color from chemicals in their epidermis called pigments. But unlike the beetle's hard, permanently colored cuticle, walkingsticks have a clear cuticle. This lets the colors in the epidermis show through.

Entomologists — those are people who study insects — think the yellow and green pigments are permanently placed around a walkingstick's body. But the brown pigments can move so you — and hungry, insect-eating predators — think they see a twig instead of a walkingstick.

The best way for a walkingstick to protect itself is to just sit still. With its stick-shaped body and the right color combinations, no predator will find it — if it's lucky!

Scientifically yours,
Twig

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Have a question? Send me E-mail: Twig@aqvax2.ag.ohio-state.edu

'Tween Topics'

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — Are you the parent or grandparent of a "tween"? If so, you probably know all too well the stresses and strains that the family and the "tween" experience daily. The child is working on becoming independent while the adults are trying to maintain family rules and order in the household.

Could you use some help in parenting your "tween"? Penn State Cooperative Extension family living educators have written a newsletter to help you. "Tween Topics" is a free 16-page newsletter especially written for parents, grandparents, and caregivers of 10-15 year olds. Call the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Office at (717) 253-5970 X 239 or your local cooperative extension office to receive your free issue.

You may also stop in at the Wayne County Extension office, Courthouse, 925 Court Street, Honesdale, PA 18431, to pick up your copy.



This wacky snapshot was sent in by Paris Cox, Whiteford, Md. The 7-year-old writes that these eager eaters were so hungry they hung off the sofa seat to receive their nourishment from their mother named Cox's Foxy Roxsy.