

Kids Korner



Natasha Naftzinger, Kayla Moyer, and Crystal Zerbe hurry to learn more about water quality.



Ralph Moyer explains the milking process in the milking parlor on his farm.

Tulpehocken School District Hosts Agriculture Science Adventure

Damp conditions didn't stop the annual elementary agriculture science adventure from occurring successfully. One hundred thirty-nine third grade students in the Tulpehocken School District visited Mor-Dale Farms, owned by Ralph and Crystal Moyer, Frystown, Berks County.

Students rotated through six learning stations to learn about animals, plants, soils, water, resources and community. Tours of the farm filled in the noon hour.

Dr. Adrienne MacCloude and dairy farmer Ralph Moyer instilled animal science information for those attending. Samples of feeds including corn silage, haylage, soybean meal, cotton seed, and ground corn provided a display that is mouth-watering to any bovine. The meal also included chocolate candy a re-

cycled product that completes the animal's daily diet, explained Ralph. Tools for treating, restraining, and monitoring animal health were shown and demonstrated to the students. Miah the dog, owned by Dr. MacCloude, a small and large animal veterinarian with Willow Creek Animal Hospital, quickly made friends with everyone.

The garden planting was canceled due to soggy soil but a video demonstrating urban gardening was used as an alternative. Activities included vegetable plant identification from seed packets and pumpkin seeds placed in peat pellets for future garden planting were distributed. Berks County Extension Agent John Falter and Master Gardener Don Kline assisted by FFA member Sonia Erb trained the green thumbs.

Randy McCormick and Tama-

ra Botto NRCS, USDA technicians utilized soil profile models to instill in students the importance of soils. A Hagerstown Soil Series profile was constructed by all the students to take along home to share with parents.

High school students Luke Troutman, John Hartman, and Jonathan Bicksler demonstrated soil erosion and water-holding capacity with models.

Tamara Pepper, DCNP water quality staff person from Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, had students swimming about like aquatic animals. Students explained why water is important in their lives in response to Tamara's questions. Collecting samples from the pond appeared to be a highlight of this station activity. Utilizing "nets" and containers, samples of worm and insects were gathered, compared and identified. Terry Don-

kel and Joshua Dragon, high school agriculture biology students, assisted with collection activities.

Students volunteered quickly when asked to empty a waste container and select recyclable materials versus non-recyclable. Holly Hager-Yoch, a BFI Landfill representative, encouraged students to separate aluminum cans, glass containers, paper and plastics; materials that are recyclable and need to be sent to a landfill. Students were treated to a landfill sandwich model. It is utilized to illustrate the construction of a landfill to prevent leachate from entering the water supply. Community and service club member Joel Martin, Josh Balthaser, and Mike Blatt assisted with participation rewards. The three coordinated recycling activities at the high school.

Patty Melt and Detective

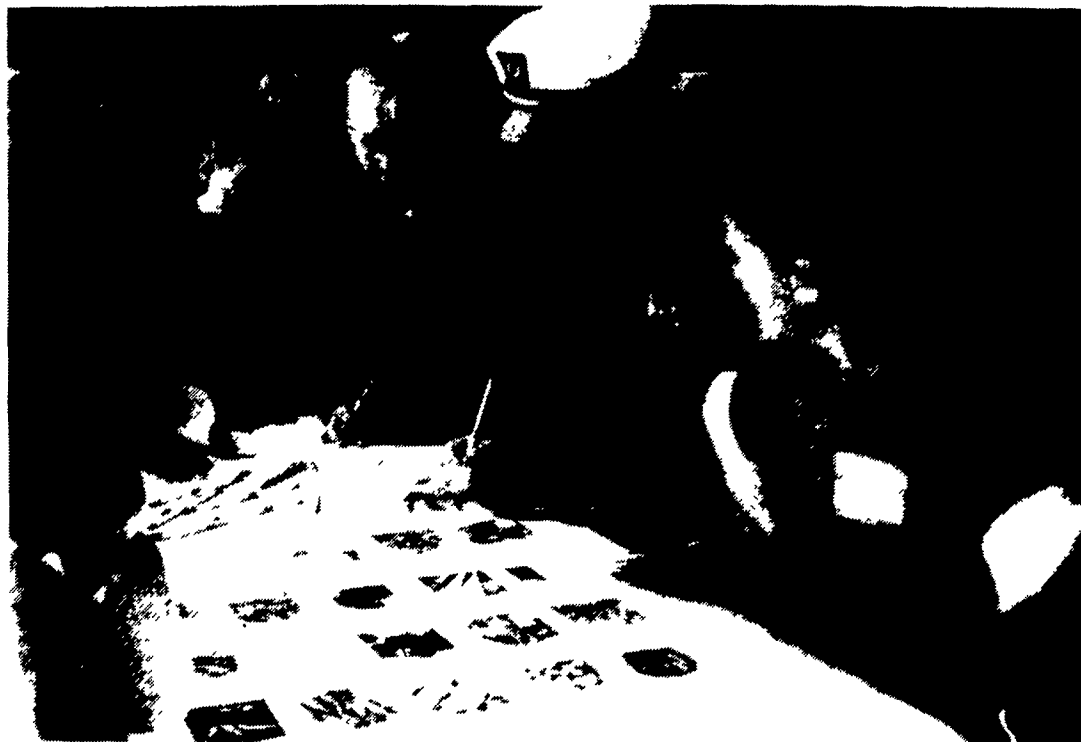
Burge stole the show at the station coordinated by the Pennsylvania Beef Council. The four C's of Food Safety was the theme conveyed. Students portrayed Cool It, Keep It Clean, Cook It and Don't Cross It as their classmates provided an audience. Elizabeth Smith and Michelle Ranck along with Tulpehocken High School student Sara Steigerwald played a key role in the production.

During the noon hours, students viewed actual milking in the parlor, calf-raising facilities and Berks County Alternate Dairy Princess Cindy Bray's skit. A cheeseburger with all the fixings was served as part of the lunch.

Soft ice cream was served to the kids before they departed from the event. A quiz on the day's activities awaited them back at school.



Sonia Erb, left, shows students how to plant pumpkin seeds in peat pellets observed by teacher Brian Luckenbill and students, Zachary Kablack, Kyle Gutshall, Nikki Hurst, and Joseph Derenzo.



Students, from left, Danielle Leh, Katie Wylezik, Molly Reinsmith, Cody Scheipan, Thomas Reifsnnyder, and Clayton Moyer identify vegetable plants.