

# Kids Korner

## Cone Caravan Caper

BALLY (Berks Co.) — The first-ever Ice Cream Cone Scooping and Building Relay Race was held recently at St. Francis Academy, in Bally.

The race pitted students against teachers and was part of the school's annual Dairy Day celebration. Each team built, one scoop at a time, five ice cream cones five scoops high using Turkey Hill ice cream on Dairy Queen cones. Each participant dashed 50-feet from start to scoop and back the same 50-feet to pass the cone to the next teammate.

The day began with a presentation by Cindy Bray, the newly crowned Berks County Dairy Princess. Portraying lunch box inspector Trooper Bray, she re-

viewed several lunches noting the healthy ones and the not so healthy ones with chips and sodas. "Dairy Day is an excellent way for students and adults to learn about the values of dairy products while having fun," she said after the event.

Event judges included Robin Melcher, sr. vice president of National Penn Bank, Donna Holstein of Holstein Transport Co., Bob Hilbert of Bob Hilbert Co., Bob Morrone of Pennsburg Dairy Queen, Walter Guasp-Santos, and Dairy Princess Cindy Bray.

Event sponsors included Turkey Hill Dairy, Pennsburg Dairy Queen, Bob Hilbert Co., Holstein Transport, and National Penn Bank.



First-grade students from St. Francis Academy enjoy a cone of Turkey Hill ice cream following the school's annual Dairy Day celebration.

## Children's Day At Indian Steps Museum

YORK (York Co.) — On July 16, the Conservation Society of York County will sponsor its third annual Children's Day, from noon to 4 p.m. on the grounds of Indian Steps Museum along the Susquehanna River.

There will be craft making for children (25¢ per craft), a fairy hunt, story telling, flute playing, and probably more surprises. The York Area Pet Bird Club will also be on hand to talk to the public and show the proper handling and training of pet birds.

Food and refreshments will be sold and all proceeds from the event will benefit the museum. There is no admission for the event or to the museum, although donations are greatly appreciated.

Directions to Indian Steps Museum: Take Route 74 south to Airville, go north on Route 425 to the river, turn right and the museum is approximately one mile.

For additional information call chairperson Ealora Holland at (717) 755-3777.

## Feeding Livestock: Don't Take Job Lightly

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Feeding livestock is not a job that should be taken lightly, particularly for children, said a farm safety expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Farmers can assign appropriate farm tasks to their children using the newly developed North American Guidelines to Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAG-CAT), said Dennis Murphy, professor of agricultural engineering.

"Distributing feed to animals may seem like one of the easier farm chores, but in reality, there are several serious safety issues," Murphy said.

Hay feed often is stored above the livestock area, which may require children to climb on unprotected or rickety ladders. In addition, square bales of hay weigh between 40 and 60 pounds and can be unwieldy to lift for children as well as adults, causing missteps and poor footing.

"The bale should weigh no more than 15 percent of a child's body weight," Murphy said. "The child should have to carry the bale no more than 10 or 15 yards during the job. If the distance is greater or the bale weighs more, an adult should carry the bale or cut it into smaller sections."

Hay bales also are held together by twine or, occasionally, wire. Children should wear leather gloves and receive training in using wire cutters and safety glasses. "Wire can spring up and inflict an eye injury," Murphy

said. "Wire can cut hands, and twine can give you painful rope burns if gloves are not used."

When feeding cows, children should be wary of any sudden movement on the part of the animals. Around horses, Murphy said children should be cautious of kicks, bites, or unpredictable movements. "Children never should be required to enter enclosed pens to feed young horses, stallions or pregnant or lactating mares," he said.

Feeds such as corn or silage produce dust and silo gases when stored in a silo. Murphy said children should be fitted for a respirator and wear it during feeding. "Never let a child enter a silo," Murphy said.

When feeding cattle, children always should keep a barrier — preferably a metal stall or stanchion — between the animal and themselves. If the child is using a feed cart or wheelbarrow, he or she should be able to safely push and effectively steer a fully loaded cart.

"When cleaning up, make sure the broom or shovel is the right size for a child," Murphy said. "Large grain shovels can pick up more weight than some children can safely handle."

During feeding chores, children should wear non-skid shoes and make sure to wash their hands before and after the job. "Always demonstrate how to feed livestock four or five times before allowing children to work by themselves," Murphy said. "Always check back on them every 15 to 30 minutes."

## Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK



### What is biotechnology?

Today's farmers are able to raise crops that grow faster, healthier and more efficiently than they used to. Many of these plant varieties are resistant to insects and disease. How? That's easy—biotechnology.

Biotechnology is the use of organisms, systems or processes to make or modify products. Scientists transfer DNA or genes from plants or organisms to other plants and organisms.

This process provides the genetically modified organism with good qualities that benefit farmers, consumers and the environment.

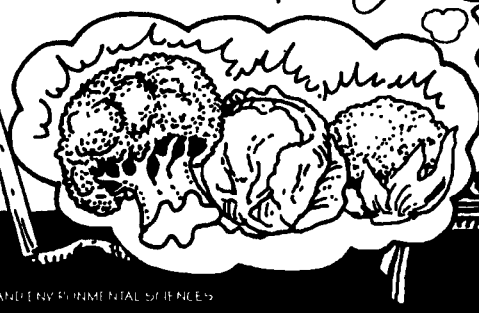
About half of U.S. soybeans and a third of U.S. corn is a product of plant biotechnology. Through a genetic process—called gene transfer, corn, soybeans and other crops can be made pest- and disease-resistant and tolerant of cold weather, drought conditions and flooding.

Genetically modified plants can also make pharmaceuticals and vaccines.

Sound complicated? It's really not. Scientists can use biotechnology to improve all sorts of things. By combining the good things from one plant or animal with another, we can make improvements!

It's like a s'more. Graham crackers, chocolate and marshmallows are good to eat alone, but when we put them together, they're super-delicious!

Scientifically yours, Twig



KIDS GULP MORE MILK

THE PENN STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES