

# Kids Korner

## Free Summer Fun

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
*Lancaster Farming Staff*

**EPHRATA** (Lancaster Co.) - Many of the best things in life are free — sunshine, fresh air, water, parks, and lots of agriculture related activities.

Pennsylvania has 127 fairs, sometimes called farm shows. Most offer free admission and free activities. In addition to seeing cows, horses, sheep, goats, and rabbits, petting zoos or tents are set up for children to cuddle, touch, and admire animals up

close. Activities often include tractor pedal pulls, hay mazes, and hay bale tosses.

In the upcoming weeks, fairs are scheduled in many communities. To experience the fun, ask your parents to help you find a fair near you.

Another option is visiting state parks and state game lands. Along Colebrook Road near Mount Gretna (Lebanon County) are Dinosaur Rocks. These rocks are a natural formation of huge boulders that are shaped like di-

nosaurus. Kids have lots of fun climbing over these and running around the woods located on state game lands.

Perhaps you have a favorite free place you like to visit. Write and tell us about it. Include a picture if you have one. We will print the information so other kids can have fun too.

To have fun, you don't need to pay high admission tickets to visit amusement parks. The activities on this page are amusing to kids of all ages.



**Keven, Zachary, and Nicole Vernarec, Clinton Township, N.J., cradle a baby bunny at the popular petting zoo during the Clinton County Farm City Day.**



**Climb the Dinosaur Rocks at Mount Gretna. The huge boulder are a natural formation of rocks that form interesting shapes such as dinosaurs.**

## Kids At Ag Progress

**ROCKSPRING** (Centre Co.) — Don't forget to bring the kids to Penn State's Ag Progress Days, Aug. 15-17.

The Family Learning Hub, near the food vendors on Main Street between West 8th and West 9th, will interest kids whether they live on a farm or in the city. The Hub includes:

- **ImAGination Station.** Here, the science of agriculture comes to life. Experience out-of-the-ordinary exhibits such as the "Bugmobile," a roving, "talking" car painted like a ladybug. The Bugmobile teaches kids about insects and other potential pests and reducing our exposure to pesticides through integrated pest management (IPM) — with live insects for a real hands-on experience. Visitors also can add their good looks to a 4-H character at the "Picture Yourself in 4-H" exhibit and take home a souvenir.

- **Shaver's Creek Environmental Center.** This exhibit gives visitors a unique look at native Pennsylvania animal species, such as live raptors, snakes, turtles and frogs, and some hands-on natural history exhibits.

- **Farm Animal Learning Center.** This is the place to learn about farm animal welfare, including animal care and use issues. The exhibit includes dairy and beef calves, goats, lambs, pigs, miniature horses, chickens, retired greyhounds and other farm and companion animals, as well as information about the myths and facts of farm animal production. More than 50 handouts, mostly for grades 3-8, will cover almost every aspect of animal agriculture.

- **Family Room Building.** Here, master storytellers will weave their magic tales daily at noon. Jan Kinney, award-winning short story writer, will spin her yarns on Tuesday and Thursday.

- **Ermyn King,** creator of multisensory story-dramas, will perform on Wednesday. Visitors can go on a treasure hunt, play in the water, do art activities, and read. Educational exhibits by Penn State and other agencies include food preparation demonstrations; life skills and financial know-how; spotting scams and



**Alex Marple, Covington, pedals to the winner's circle during the Farm City Day held in Tioga County recently.**



**Cole Stahr, 11, of Annville recently showed his heifer in two classes at the Southeast District Junior Dairy Show at Lebanon Fairgrounds. Photo by Michelle Ranck**

ripoffs; summer safety for children; the "six pillars of character"; tobacco use prevention; reducing your family's pesticide risk; getting fit and choosing foods sensibly; hazards of lead and carbon monoxide poisoning; food safety and dressing, handling, and processing wild game and fish; and an exhibit that encourages eating more fruits and

vegetables and purchasing locally grown produce from farmers' markets and stands.

Other activities for the younger crowd include "A-Maze-N Corn." At the Natural Resource Conservation Partnership area, kids can play in the water at the "stream table," make fish prints and enjoy other educational activities.