

The Younger Side Of The Fair



"Toots," a February calf, found time during show ring practice to investigate the camera. She and Joshua Sattazahn, of Harrisburg, took first place in the winter calf show.

Besides consuming cookies, fair youngsters find other avenues of entertainment. Jonathan Sattazahn, 11, of Harrisburg, and Douglas Troutman, 7, of Mohrsville, discover that trading baseball cards can be an interesting sideshow to activities in the main ring.



Above, Taylor Hoffman, 4, from Bernville, has a head start on learning how to fit and show animals. When older siblings are involved in showing animals, the younger children of the family get an early introduction. Taylor needs only a tall glass of cold milk as he munches on chocolate chip cookies and watches his family prepare to show Holstein calves.

Students in the Ranger group from the Goddard School, ages four to six years old, were on the hunt during the Reading fair. Teachers Tanya Henne and Rachael Penatzer guided the students as they filled in the blanks of their scavenger hunt. Students identified livestock breeds, asked fair participants questions about farming, found examples of hay and straw, and tracked down a dairy princess signature as they learned about agriculture during their afternoon field trip.



Tiffany Hoffman, 9, below, carefully guides "Cillana" around the ring during the fall heifer class. This year is the first year in 4-H for Hoffman, from Bernville.



Caring for and showing animals teaches young participants many important lessons about responsibility, handling stress, and budgeting time. Below, Kyle Kulp, 8, from Leesport, learned firsthand how to take care of his animals during fair time. This year Kulp, who is participating in 4-H for the first time, overcame first-year show ring jitters to take "Annabell" and "Rock" into the ring and walk away with several awards.

