

**Family Living  
Focus**  
Bradford Co.  
Extension Agent  
**Cathy Guffey**



**Children and Farm Safety**  
Thousands of children are injured and hundreds of children die each year from hazards found on the farm. Annually, approximately eight percent of all Pennsylvania farm work injuries occur to youth aged 19 and younger. Some of these children are working on the farm when the injury occurs; others wander into trouble or are invited or attracted into hazardous areas.

According to Penn State farm safety expert Dennis Murphy, no toddler or preschooler should have work tasks on a farm. Early elementary school age children (ages 5-9) can water plants, feed small animals, collect eggs, or help with hand tools.

Youth ages 10 to 13 are potentially the most dangerous on the farm because at this age they are risk takers, easily distracted, and clumsy. Parents should not mistake a child's size for ability to do work. Appropriate farm tasks for 10 to 13-year-olds are hand raking and digging; limited power tool use only under supervision; lawn mowing with a push mower or garden tractor on flat surfaces and under supervision; and handling or assisting with animals.

The 13- to 16-year-old still needs adult supervision but may be ready for more adult jobs such as equipment operation and maintenance. Parents can gradually increase tasks as experienced is gained.

Farm work tasks appropriate for 13- to 16-year-olds include manual handling of feed and feeding animals. Fourteen and 15-year-olds can operate a tractor over 20 PTO horsepower and connect and disconnect parts to and from the tractor after completion of a 10-hour training program. They can also assist with operating (including stopping, adjusting, and feeding) the following equipment after completing a 10-hour training program: cornpicker, grain combine, hay

mower, forage harvester, hay baler, potato digger, feed grinder, crop dryer, forage blower, auger conveyor, the unloading mechanism of a non-gravity-type self-unloading wagon or trailer, power post-hole digger, power post driver or non-walking rotary tiller.

Older teens of 16 to 18 years may be ready to work with tractors, self-propelled machinery, augers, elevators, and other farm equipment, but must earn this responsibility. They should be trained, educated, and supervised at regular intervals.

To help keep children safe on the farm consider the following:

- Provide a fenced-in play area close to the house and away from farming activities. Do not allow children to roam freely on a farm.
  - Inspect the farm on a regular basis for hazards that could injure someone who wanders onto the farm. Correct hazards immediately.
  - Only school-age children should do farm work (age appropriate tasks only). Supervise working children at all times.
  - Never let a child ride on a piece of farm equipment as an extra rider.
  - Never invite children into a livestock barn, grain bin, or area where farm equipment is repaired.
  - Farm equipment looks fun to children. Be sure ladders and other equipment are out of sight and reach.
  - Be sure equipment is turned off, hydraulics are lowered, and keys have been removed from unattended equipment.
  - Be sure there are strong physical barriers such as locks and fences around ponds and pits.
  - Chemicals should be locked up.
- For additional reading on this topic contact your local extension office and ask for Children and Safety on the Farm.

# Register For Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Coronation

CLARION (Clarion Co.) — Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services, Inc.'s 44th annual Dairy Princess Pageant will be held on Saturday evening, September 23, at the Sheraton Inn Harrisburg. A milk punch reception will start at 5:30 p.m. followed by a banquet at 6:30 p.m. and the coronation at 8 p.m.

Thirty-five dairy princesses will compete for the title of Pennsylvania Dairy Princess now held by Lori Connelly of Centre County. The newly selected princess and two alternates will reign for a period of one year from September 2000 to September 2001. During that time, they will represent the dairy farmers of Pennsylvania speaking out for its number one agricultural industry and all dairy products.

The pageant, which will be held on the Saturday evening preceding the annual All-American Dairy Week, will end two full days of activities and interviews for the contestants. Four judges, all from out-of-state, will select a Pennsylvania dairy princess and two alternates from seven finalists.

The Pennsylvania Dairy Princess program is supported by Pennsylvania dairy farmers through their various advertising

and promotion agencies: The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program/American Dairy Association Mid-East, American Dairy Association/Dairy Council — Middle Atlantic, American Dairy Association Dairy Council, Inc. and Allied Milk Producers with contributions from other dairy related organizations and individuals. Again this year, as the result of a grant from Sire Power, Inc. and several anonymous individuals, the awards to the winners will be \$1,200 to the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and \$600 to each of her two alternates.

In addition, two contestants will receive \$100 awards for outstanding dairy presentations designed for school children and two others will receive \$100 each for the two best speeches designed for adult audiences. As in the past, there will also be two \$50 awards for compiling scrapbooks, which chronicle their dairy princess activities to date. The contestants themselves will select the coveted "Miss Congeniality" award from among their own ranks.

For more than 40 years, the primary purpose of the Dairy Princess program in Pennsylvania is the promotion of the dairy industry and its products on the local grass roots level and fur-

thering consumers understanding of the importance of agriculture to our state's economy. Incentive Awards will again be given to the counties whose last year's princess and her committee completed the incentive requirements.

In addition, an individual award of \$300 will be given to the young woman who stood out as the outstanding dairy promoter during her county reign. This award, entitled the "Tina Shultz Memorial Award" is given in memory and honor of the outstanding young lady, who in May 1986 succumbed to cancer, during her reign as Huntingdon County Dairy Princess.

Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services announces that the Saturday morning presentation competition will be open to the public free of charge. It will run from 8 a.m. until noon in the Sheraton Ballroom. All interested persons are invited and urged to attend.

Tickets for the event are \$20 per person and are available on a "first come" basis from Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services, Inc., 214 South Street, Box 640, Clarion, PA 16214. (814) 226-7470 or fax (814) 226-8698. All tickets must be paid in advance and will be held for pick-up at the door.

## Putting The Perennial Garden To Bed

YORK (York Co.) — Learn some new techniques and time-saving tips as Penn State Master Gardener Josie Boyer conducts a hands-on workshop titled "Putting the Perennial Garden to Bed for the Winter." Josie will teach the workshop on site at her home at Laurel Hill Farm on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to

noon. Participants should bring pruners and gloves, and everyone leaves with a plant.

Sponsored by York Penn State Cooperative Extension, there is

no charge for the workshop, but registration is required and is limited to the first 20 people. To register or for more information, call Bekah at (717) 840-7408.



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