

Kids Korner

Susquehanna County Cow To Travel The Country

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MONTROSE (Susquehanna Co.) — A cow has "escaped" from Susquehanna County and is en route on a journey around the country.

Along the way, the black-and-white bovine, named "Cassidy," is expected to visit almost every state in the union, making friends along the way, and generating a host of information for a group of students at the Lathrope Street Elementary School.

Cassidy is not your ordinary dairy cow. She's a large "stuffed" bovine and her journey is the brainchild of the Lathrope Street Elementary School's media specialist and dairy farmer, Natalie Hawley.

A few years ago, Natalie Hawley shipped off a teddy bear — alias Ted E. Read — whose journey ultimately circled through England, Alaska, Japan, Thailand, Australia and several cities in the United States. With the assistance of his hosts, the well-traveled teddy sent fascinating tales and memorabilia of his stops to help Mrs. Hawley's students learn about the geography of various areas and how people live around the world.

"Why not a cow?" figured the librarian, whose husband, Louis, and family operate a 75-head, grazing-based dairy farm near Montrose.

Cassidy's assignment for her travels is to keep a journal of who and where she visits and interesting things she does and discovers in her stops. Since writing is not naturally a talent for most cows, Cassidy will be depending on her hosts to help with her tales about her travels.

As a base list of host families for the pedigreed and eartagged bovine, Natalie Hawley tapped many of the directors and their spouses of the board of Dairy Farmers of America, on which Lou Hawley serves, as well as other dairy family contacts around the country.

Cassidy made her traveling debut at a recent dairy meeting in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. From there, she accompanied northern California dairy farmer Harvey Moranda home to his Jersey dairy herd and olive grove for her first farm visit as she crisscrosses the country.

Students at the school, under Natalie Hawley's lead, will track Cassidy's travels and the adventures she has through notes and postcards her farm hosts will send back. The traveling-cow geography teacher and ambassador is expected to be on the road for about a year before making the trip back to the Susquehanna County elementary school.

Hosts are encouraged to take Cassidy to farm and non-farm places and events during her stay with them, any

activity or location they think the Lathrope School students might enjoy learning about. They may also send the stuffed bovine ambassador with family or friends to interesting activities, perhaps even along with a local dairy princess on promotional appearances. The school will underwrite the cost of the postage for shipping Cassidy along to another state, which hosts are encouraged to do after she has been in their care for a week.

"Our goal is to learn as much about each state as possible from local people, the size of the state, the terrain, the weather. Each part of the country is unique, whether it be a famous city or a small hamlet, and we want to hear about it from local people," explains Natalie Hawley, Cassidy's "mom."

The Hawley family has a tradition of pursuing such interesting angles to their careers. Their dairy operation, which is expanding to about 100 cows, is a seasonal-milking one, with calving starting early in March and the whole herd dried off by late December. They also raise extra dairy heifers and maintain a herd of 35 beef cows.

About 600 acres included in the operation are fenced in numerous pastures to accommodate the total more than 350 head of cows and young stock. Pastures are planted to mostly grass and some clover, plus occasional innovations such as cropping turnips for the grazing herd.

Hawleys' herd is milked in a double-ten, swing over parlor they constructed themselves four years ago, a simple and efficient facility which holds current milking times to little more than an hour.

With their extensive experience in high-tensile fence construction, the Hawleys also do custom fencing for other landowners, as well as operate a custom, wrapped-round-bale business during summer months.

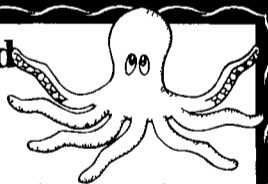
During his senior year in high school, Hawley milked his then-40-head herd before and after daily classes. He and Natalie met through 4-H and are the parents of three grown sons, two of them working full-time with the family farming operation. Ben, 25, has a special interest in the beef herd, while Nick tends a herd of goats in addition to the farm's other diverse enterprises. Mike, 23, works for Proctor and Gamble, and shepherds a flock of sheep along with lending a hand part-time with farm chores.

The Hawleys, along with the student body at the Lathrope Street school, are eager to hear of the adventures of the cow "escapee." After her extensive journeys around the country, the traveling Cassidy is expected to return for her retirement at the school and the Hawley family farm.



Natalie Hawley, dairy farmer and media specialist, holds Cassidy the cow who is traveling the country.

Eight-Legged Ocean Creature



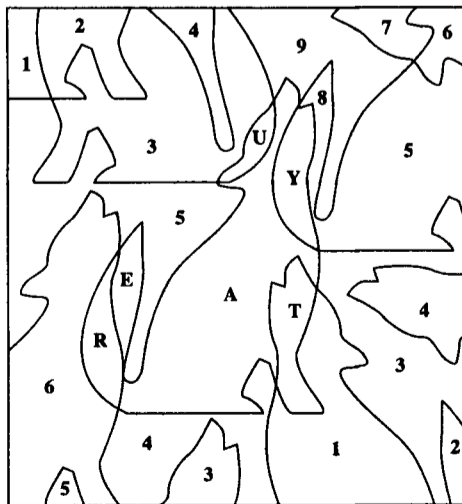
No! It's not something from a horror movie. It's an octopus, and it really does have eight legs that are lined with suckers. Check out some facts about these ocean creatures.

The octopus

- Uses the suckers on its arms to move on the ocean floor and to capture prey. It can have as many as 240 suction cups.
- Moves by jet propulsion, which means it sucks water in, then pushes it out the other end.
- Has a hard beak like a parrot's. The beak is used to kill and tear flesh from prey.
- Lives alone on the sea floor in a den.
- Ranges in size from less than half an inch to more than 16 feet long. The biggest is the Giant Pacific Octopus, which can end up weighing almost 600 pounds.
- Has blue blood.
- Uses poison to kill prey. The poison is pretty weak in most types of octopus and cannot harm humans. However, the Blue Ringed Octopus from Australia has enough poison to paralyze and kill a human.
- Protects itself by changing colors to blend in with its surroundings.
- Sends out a cloud of purple-black ink to confuse its enemies.

There are about 200 known species of the octopus around the world. The larger ones are usually found in colder water.

HIDDEN PICTURE



Color in each space that contains a letter.

The Drawing Toy

This year, the popular Etch A Sketch® will be 40 years old. The first Etch A Sketch toys were made July 12, 1960, but the work on them started years before that.

Arthur Granjean invented the L'Ecran Magique in the 1950s in his garage. Granjean took the toy to the 1959 International Toy Fair in Germany. And even though the Ohio Art Company representatives saw the toy there, they weren't interested in it. They did decide to take a chance on making the toy after they saw it a second time.

After renaming and making the toy, the company ran TV ads for the Etch A Sketch. The Etch A Sketch became so popular, the company decided to keep making them until noon Christmas Eve 1960.

But the Ohio Art Company has not stopped making the Etch A Sketch, and very little has changed in the drawing toy. The left and right knobs on the frame control the movement of the drawing line. The other side of the screen is coated with aluminum powder and plastic beads. As the knobs are moved, the screen is actually scraped, leaving the line you see.

Other toys have joined the family of the Classic Etch A Sketch, including a travel version and a pocket version. If you want to learn more about these drawing toys, you may visit the Etch A Sketch Web site at www.etch-a-sketch.com/.

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