

# From Apples To Beekeeping To Chicks, Farm City Day Teaches Agriculture

**MICHELLE RANCK**  
*Lancaster Farming Staff*  
**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — At the recent Farm City Day in Pennsylvania's Farm Show Complex, approximately 2,500 children toured the beef, pig, sheep, and dairy barns

before checking out the interactive displays, outdoor carnival, and petting zoo.

More than 25 central Pennsylvania schools participated in the event. The day was held in conjunction with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition

(KILE) to take advantage of the various breeds of farm animals gathered for the competition.

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the day featured the slogan, "A story to be told . . . Lessons to be learned."

Outside, children were treated to a fair-like atmosphere, with amusement rides, a straw maze, and a chance to buy popcorn, candy apples, and cotton candy, staples at any self-respecting country fair.

At the display area, students ages second through fifth grade sampled Gala apples from the Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Association and fresh carrots from the Pennsylvania Produce stand. They stroked rabbits compliments of the Dauphin County Goat and Rabbit Club, and planted and took home marigolds and alyssum from the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association.

Students also met Pennsylvania Beef Council's "Patty Melt," the food safety mascot, or voted for their favorite way to eat a potato.

"What does wool make?" asked Candace Burke, Freeport, to students. Burke's display included several varieties of wool in addition to her spinning and weaving demonstrations.

Other interactive stands included a place to color with newly-introduced crayons made from soy oil at a stand sponsored by the Pennsylvania Soybean board. These crayons are considered to be superior to traditional wax crayons because the oil base makes the color smoother and brighter and is less flaky.

Students also learned of the multiple uses of soybeans, which include candles, building mate-

rials, cleaning products, hand lotion, and fuel.

Information was also available from FFA, Christmas tree growers, Pennsylvania Aquaculture, Pennsylvania health and safety displays, and a dairy princess booth.

Jim Hoover, Capitol Area Beekeepers, aided by other members of the beekeeping association and Pennsylvania Honey

(Turn to Page A39)



Hershey Elementary School students carefully curl their fingers around tiny chicks.



Students from Shinnell Elementary School came away with handfuls of wool and some shearing experience under the guiding hand of Christian Herr, Camp Hill, deputy secretary of agriculture.



Steve Hampson, Shirley, Mass., demonstrates sheep fitting to students from Harrisburg school St. Catherine Laboure.



Students enjoyed the "representative" from the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association.



A representative from the Pennsylvania Hardwoods Council explains how wood impacts students' everyday lives through wood by-products. Students were unsure of the use of wood in the sponges, artificial vanilla, and make-up, which led to a discussion on cellulose.