

# Kids Korner



Bently, the tame buffalo, and his owner, Anne Brooks travel to fairs, nursing homes, schools, and other events.

## Tame Buffalo Attracts Crowds

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BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — "Bently" the tame buffalo from Centre County made a personal appearance at the Darrow Buffalo farm near Bedford as a part of the Fall Foliage celebration.

The Darrows capitalize on the crowds drawn by the annual county seat fall foliage event and have their own festival. "We get a lot of the overflow," says Ann.

In addition to a re-enactment, Indian craftsmen, storytelling, and dream catcher making, the Darrows serve fresh apple cider, buffalo burgers, buffalo sausage, and samples of buffalo chili.

Bently, from Centre County, got top billing this year. Owned by Anne Brooks, it is not the first time Bently has been to Bedford County. Bedford High School has the bison for a mascot, and Bently appears annually in the homecoming parade.

"We have a small farm with a few buffalo, mostly raised for meat, and horses," explains Anne. "However, we always wanted a tame buffalo, one we

could take to parades and festivals as well as schools or nursing homes."

Bently arrived at the Brooks home when only two days old.

"We bottle fed him and played with him a lot," Anne said. "We hoped for the best and figured that we would might have to eat him if it didn't work out."

While this might be enough to make most buffalo nervous, Bently contentedly stands in a small corral at exhibits and munches on the tasty green grass, if available.

His stable man, Bill Leonard, sometimes does a little rough housing.

"I back off quickly if I see he is going to get rough," Bill laughs. "If we really got into a tussle, I know Bently would win."

"He's like people in a lot ways," Anne says. "He's very good-natured until he gets tired, and then he gets grumpy."

"I drove for two hours from Pittsburgh just to see Bently," said one young lady visitor. Anne explains to her as well as to all that stop by that you can touch

his back or his nose, but don't go for the top of his head. He doesn't like anything near his eyes.

A hit with school children, Bently is even more of a delight at nursing homes. "We have all who can come outside to see him, and we can take him on the porch for those who are confined indoors."

Ann tells the story of one lady who had not been out of her room in more than a year. She had a small porch near her window and Anne declared that if she did not come out on the porch, they were going to take the buffalo inside. She came out smiling and was delighted to see a real buffalo.

While most buffalo are not neutered, Bently is an exception as it has helped to make him more of a pet.

Not only does Bently enjoy the local fame he has achieved, he also received top billing at the Pennsylvania Farm Show and Penn State's Ag Progress Days.

Ann has certainly achieved her goal of having a tame buffalo!

## How To Grow A Giant Pumpkin

According to OSU Extension experts, growing a giant pumpkin requires an early start. To grow a giant pumpkin in time for Halloween, you should begin the process in April.

To start, you'll need pumpkin seeds, 12-inch peat pots, and a well-balanced potting medium. Ask an adult for help locating these items.

Sow giant pumpkin seeds in individual pots indoors about the end of April. When the first leaf

appears and unrolls, the baby pumpkin plants are ready to be transplanted in your pumpkin patch-usually 10 to 14 days after seeding.

Space is very important because your giants will need lots of room. Each plant needs about 2,500 square feet. And make sure to plant them in a very sunny area with good drainage. It's also a good idea to fertilize your plants. Ask an adult to test the soil and help you apply the ap-

propriate nutrients.

Pumpkins have a shallow root system, so water slowly. They need at least one inch of water per week. Water in morning or early afternoon so the leaves will dry by evening. This helps prevent disease. Each plant will produce several pumpkins. When they reach volleyball size, trim back to one pumpkin. This will allow one pumpkin to receive all of the nutrients. And the more it eats, the bigger it will grow!

## Calcium For Halloween Skeletons

Susquehanna County Dairy Princess Kelly Diaz writes that Halloween is just around the corner, and you still might be wondering what you should be for Halloween.

She asks, "What comes to your mind when you think Halloween? Witches, bats, pumpkins, and skeletons come to mind. But a skeleton needs plenty of calcium to keep its 'spooky' shape."

About 99 percent of the body's calcium is in the bones and teeth, and the remaining one percent is circulating in the blood stream. Calcium is not only good for your teeth and bones, but it helps the clotting of blood, nerve impulses, and it helps muscles, like your heart, contract and relax normally.

How much calcium should you be drinking? If you are an adult-three glasses; under 18-four glasses; pregnant-four glasses; and a pregnant teenager-five glasses.

Looking for some Halloween party ideas? Check out the following "ghouling" Halloween titled recipes.

**Mucus Membrane Milkshake**  
2 cups buttermilk  
2 scoops vanilla ice cream  
½ cup pineapple juice  
4 tablespoons brown sugar  
2 cups milk  
Measure all of the ingredients,

except the milk, into a blender. Then blend on medium speed until smooth and creamy. Add more ice cream if you like your "mucus" extra thick.

Fill tall glasses with the mixture and refrigerate. Heat the milk in a small pan over medium heat until it begins to boil. Remove from the heat and let it cool until it develops a film on its surface. Using a wooden spoon, carefully scoop off the film and place some on top of each milkshake.

If you need more "mucus," just reheat the remaining milk and repeat this step. Blend chunks of pineapple into your milkshake (for phlegm balls) or red cherries (for blood clots).

### Strained Eyeballs

6 eggs, hardcooked, cooled, and peeled

6-ounce whipped cream cheese

12 green olives stuffed with pimentos

red food coloring or ketchup

Half eggs, widthwise. Remove yolks and fill the hole with cream cheese, smoothing surface as much as possible. Press an olive into each cream cheese "eyeball," pimento up, for an eerie green iris and red pupil. Dip a toothpick into ketchup and draw broken blood vessels in the cream cheese.

## Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

**Is laughter good for you?**  
"If you can find humor in anything, you can survive it," said television comedian Bill Cosby. Laughter helps people like you and me to get through difficult times.

If you possess a good sense of humor it's easier to overcome troubles. If you find something funny about a bad situation, you can usually find a way to solve the problem.

My friends in Family and Consumer Sciences at The Ohio State University tell me that humor helps to get rid of anger and aggression in ourselves and others. In fact, a study of humor in the classroom showed lower scores on aggression for students who watched a funny video. Why? Because laughter affects our brain!

When we laugh, both sides of our brain are stimulated. We get a message much quicker during this time and we remember it longer.

It's easy to share laughter with others. And laughter not only makes you feel better, but it helps you to see a new side to the situation.

It's true—laughter is contagious. When you laugh, most people around you will laugh, too, so share your laughter with others!

Scientifically yours,  
Twig

HEHE!  
HA HA!  
HOHO!

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