

Kids Korner



Gabriel Martin, son of Doug and Lydia Martin of Leola, says, "Hello," to a Jacob lamb. The lamb is an orphan triplet that needs to be fed sheep's milk substitute with a bottle. The lamb is learning to eat grass and run with the rest of the flock. Curiosity sometimes leads to naughtiness, because the lamb likes to nibble on flowers much to the chagrin of its owners, Dave and Katrina Lefever. The Lefevers say that historians believe that the Jacob breed started about 3,000 years ago in the Middle East. The breed name is taken from the Bible story of Jacob's flock of spotted sheep. This horned breed first came to the United States from Britain in the beginning 1900s. Photo by Jeff Martin.

Springtime Comes To The Farm

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BERNVILLE (Berks Co.) — Warm breezes are finally here to stay — Jaylene Lesher hopes.

The six-year-old is the reigning Berks County Little Dairy Miss. Despite that big title and the work of promoting the goodness of milk, Jaylene is just like any other six-year-old.

"I like to play outside, wear shorts, and run to see John Henry, my horse," she said.

Jaylene also likes to ride bike, climb trees, swing, feed the ducks, boat on the pond, and help on the farm.

Springtime on the Lesher

farm is a busy time. In addition to milking 100 cows, and plowing and planting about 320 acres, the whole family helps operate Way-Har Dairies and promote dairy products.

Jaylene is the fourth generation of her family to live on their Bernville farm. Her great grandfather purchased the farm in 1952. Her dad William grew up on the farm. "I never wanted to do anything else than farm," William said.

Most of the cows on the farm are Holsteins, about 20 of them are Jerseys, but Jaylene also has an Ayrshire, and her brother Josh, 8, has a Brown Swiss. Her sister Laura, 5, hopes to become

dairy princess someday.

"I'm teaching her to say big words," Jaylene said.

Laura pronounces big words quite well. She also likes to say the following poem:

"I'm a little farm girl through and through.

I help milk cows and they say, 'mooo.'

I like ice cream and drink my milk too.

Three glasses a day for me and you."

Much to the delight of audiences, Jaylene sings a song about milk and ice cream whenever she promotes milk before audiences.

During her reign, Jaylene as made 57 school appearances, more than any former Little Miss in Berks County. She often shows students how to make butter by using her grandmother's glass butter churn. Jaylene's favorite activity as the Little Miss was to ride in parades.

"Sometimes I ride on a float or a big car," Jaylene said. Her favorite was riding on a fire truck with Santa Claus.

She also got to throw out the first pitch at the Reading Phillies game during Clover Farms Night, and presented trophies at a Nascar Raceway.

Jaylene plays T-ball, takes jazz class, and sings in the Little Lamb Choir at the family's church.

Jaylene's parents and even her grandpa took turns taking Jaylene to promotions. One of her favorite places to go is with her dad to Washington D.C. Once a year, they operate an ice

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After a day of running, jumping, and riding bikes, it's time to cool off with glasses of milk, cheese and crackers. From left are Laura, Jaylene, and a friend April Stauffer.

Springtime is busy for the Lesher family, who milk 100 cows, farm several hundred acres, and run a dairy store. William and Lolly Lesher with daughters, Jaylene, 6, and Laura, 5, and son Josh, 8, (missing from the photo due to school) strive to find time to enjoy springtime on the farm.



Nestled in her favorite tree, Jaylene and one of her Beanie Babies have a great view of the countryside.

Clothes flapping in the breeze absorb the fresh smells of a warm spring day.

