

Kids Korner



Three-month-old foal Tigger gets a special apple treat from Katarina.

Summertime Fun On Grandma's Farm

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NEW PARK (York Co.) — Katarina Warner may have a town address, but she spends lots of her time being a "country girl."

Most of Katarina's weekends and summertime days are spent at the farm of her grandparents, Jim and Norma Warner. The

day. The milk is sold at the farm to families who often use it for feeding to their young children and babies.

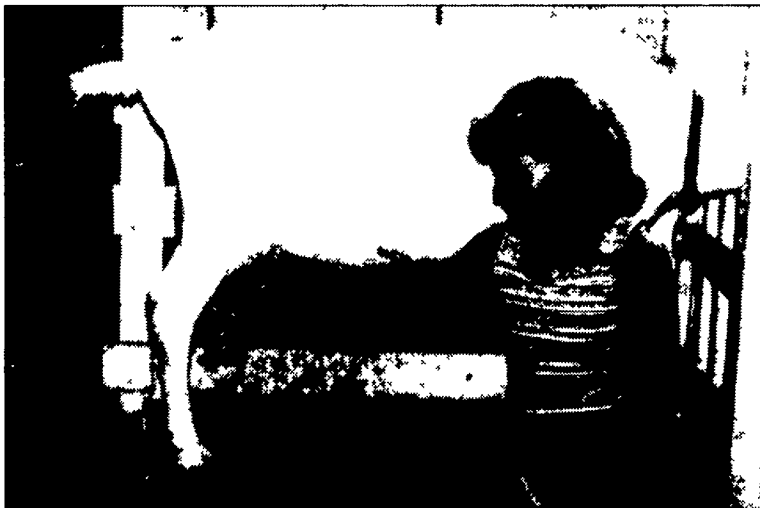
Sometimes Katarina helps with the goat milking, washing, and drying the goats' teats very carefully before attaching the special milking machine. The Warners use soft, wet baby-wipes

baby goats, must be fed and given fresh straw bedding. Katarina likes to help feed the kids their hay and grain and play with them. Sometimes she tosses them one of the giant plastic balls the Warners keep in the kids' pen as toys for them to push and butt.

At the Warner farm there are lots of animals to enjoy. Katarina's favorite of the five horses is April, a brown-coated mare that she sometimes rides. Llamas, guinea pigs, pigeons and wood duck also have pens around the farm. A large pen with a high fence, trees and bushes is home for a buck and doe white-tailed deer and their two fawns.

When chores are all finished, Katarina sometimes rides the four-wheeler or the golf cart between the Warner farms, or plays with the dogs and kittens. One tiny kitten that became separated from its family is being raised in the house by Katarina and her grandmother. The kitten drinks milk from a baby bottle.

Soon, the long summer days at the farm will end for Katarina, when school vacation ends and her classes in the second grade at the East York Elementary School begin once again. But there will still be the weekends when she can visit her grandparents and spend time with all her four-legged animal pals at the farm.



Katarina washes a goat while helping grandmother Norma with milking chores.

Warner family raises potatoes, hay and grain crops and have a variety of animals at their farm near the town of New Park.

Katarina often helps her Grandma Norma tend her herd of 13 dairy goats, which she milks morning and evening every

to wash their goats before each milking. After each goat is finished, Katarina helps to dip their teats in a special iodine solution, which helps keep them clean and free of bacteria until the next milking.

After milking, the "kids," or

Residential Environment Asthma In Children

The prevalence of asthma increased by 75 percent during the 1980s and early 1990s in children under the age of 5.

The disease now affects four million children in the U.S.

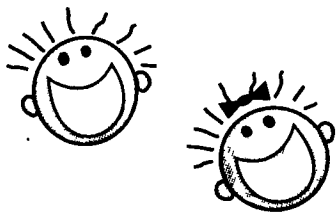
To investigate the association of household allergens with asthma, researchers surveyed the parents of 8,257 children younger than 6 and found that

almost six percent of the children had been diagnosed with asthma. Children exposed to dogs were 1.6 times more likely than others to have asthma. In addition, those exposed to cigarette smoke or the use of a gas stove or oven for heat each had a 1.8 times higher risk of being diagnosed with asthma. The researchers calculated that re-

moving such risk factors should prevent 39 percent of asthma cases in children under 6.

Parents of children under 6 may wish to avoid household risk factors for asthma such as dogs and other pets, cigarette smoke, and the use of a gas stove or oven as a space heater.

There are lots of kids to play with at Katarina's grandparents' farm.



Smart Stuff with Twig Walkingstick

Dear Twig: I saw a flock of lambs on a farm. Most of them had short tails. Two of them had long ones. What's the difference?

What you saw were "docked" and "undocked" lambs. Docking is a practice that cuts off most (but not all) of a lamb's tail. A short tail keeps the lamb cleaner. Lamb poop doesn't get stuck to the fleece. What's wrong with poop getting stuck to the fleece? Well, for one thing it's gross. And, even worse, it tends to draw flies. The flies lay eggs in the skin of the lamb (yuck!). Maggots then hatch from the eggs (double yuck!). They burrow and eat the lamb's flesh (I think I'm going to hurl). This really hurts. Plus the lamb can die if the wound gets infected. That's why many experts think docking is a good thing to do. And that's why most farmers indeed practice docking. (Marketing is also a factor: undocked lambs may sell for less money.)

That being said, a few sheep breeds don't need to be docked. And some farmers don't dock no matter what breed they have. They don't feel it's necessary or prefer not to do it. (Docking hurts, but usually for just a few moments. The pain from flies is worse.)

To dock or not to dock? In the end, the decision is based on what the farmer believes is best for his or her animals.

Twig

