

Kids Korner



The "triple looper ride" is the most thrilling fun for the Funk children and their friends who visit the farm. The girls climb the rafters to catch the rope and swing back and forth before dropping into a soft landing on stacks of hay.

Summertime With The Funk Family

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family
Features Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Friends of the Funk family love coming to the farm to play. There's so much to do. And, such a big place to run.

The farm is lots of fun for children but lots of work for parents.

"We are just an ordinary family," said Pam.

Perhaps, but not too many families have a 100-acre family farm that has been in the family for 200 years. That was long before Katy, 10; Lindsay, 8; Aimee, 4; and Kyle, 2, were born.

The children are the eighth generation to live on the farm.

The children like to help their parents with the cows. Dad milks 50 cows, mom feeds the calves and cows and runs the silo loader.

Lindsay likes to help feed the calves. Her favorite calves (red and white Holsteins) are named Curly Sue and Cutie.

Aimee, the comedian of the family, likes to pretend she is an actress and do silly jokes. She also likes to ride the farm 4-wheeler.

Although Katy is only 10, she puts the milkers on the cows and even milks the cows by hand a bit to get some milk for the seven kittens that live on the farm.

Katy also likes to play basketball and takes piano lessons.

The children also have one duck, three bunnies, and lots of chickens. They like to name their animals unusual names. For example, S'mores and Tapioca are names for the bunnies, and Remie the dog was named after a gun.

At two years of age, Kyle loves playing with trucks.

It won't be long before school starts. When that happens, there is less time for play on the farm.



Jay and Pam Funk with Katy, 10; Lindsay, 8; Aimee, 4; and Kyle, 2, prefer this type of transportation on the farm.



The girls play with one of the seven puppies born to Remie the dog.

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



Dear Twig: I got an awful chigger bite. It itches like crazy! My friend said I should use fingernail polish to try and suffocate the chigger. What do you say?

I say save your fingernail polish. Lots of people think chiggers burrow into your skin. But they don't. They don't suck your blood, either. What they do is cling to your skin and poke a hole in it with their poking, biting mouth parts. Saliva — spit! — is injected. It breaks down cells in the skin. The cells turn into liquid. They're sucked up through the mouth parts like a milk shake through a straw.

Whoa.

That's why using fingernail polish to smother or drive out a chigger is a waste of time and polish. Odds are the chigger is already gone. A good shower usually washes it off. The itch, however, may last a week.

The itching is caused by your body's reaction to the spit, the bite and the damage to your skin. (A tiny scar tube forms.) Anti-itch ointments can help.

By the way, chiggers are mites (like ticks). And they also bite birds, reptiles, small mammals and even insects (like me). The tiny larvae — only 1/120th of an inch — are what do the biting. They're hard to see, but you know when they're there!

Oo, I feel itchy all over.

Twig



Educational Garden Blooms At Hands-on House Children's Museum

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Last year, Hands-on House Children's Museum moved into a new facility that more than doubled the space available for children to explore and learn. Now, through the efforts of the Junior League of Lancaster, the museum has grown again, with the addition of an outdoor educational garden located at Hands-on House.

The educational garden is made up of several theme garden areas for children to explore. The dinosaur garden includes a skeleton with metal ribs to climb through and a stone head that doubles as a sand box. A science and discovery area comprised of a plant cave, human sundial and weather station further the educational mission of the museum.

Mr. McGregor's garden has a Peter Rabbit twist to it and features raised beds where children can observe the different stages of plant growth. Wildflowers and perennials add color to the area, and many of the plants were selected to enhance the themes. For example, many large-size perennials surround the dinosaur garden. Stone animals and colorful climbing platforms give kids an opportunity to get physical.

"The new garden provides the museum many fantastic opportunities to extend the museum's mission of hands-on learning through playing to the outside and the natural environment," said Lynne Morrison, executive director of Hands-on House.

The garden is open during public museum hours and en-

trance is included in the price of admission to Hands-on House. Public museum hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday noon-5 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person for adults and children.

Hands-on House, Children's Museum of Lancaster is a not-for-profit museum designed for 2-10-year-olds. Based on the philosophy that children learn best while playing and having fun, the museum features interactive exhibits which are designed for adults and children to explore together. Hands-on House is open to the public year round. For more information, contact Hands-On House at (717) 569-KIDS or visit the museum's Website, www.handsonhouse.org.

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