

# Kids Korner



Kids check out bees making honey during Farm-City Day. Randy Haberstroh of the Capitol Area Beekeepers Association was there to answer bee questions.

## City Kids Hear About Farm Life

About 3,000 kids from Pennsylvania schools attended Farm-City Day at the Farm Show building recently.

They had many opportunities to learn about agriculture. Among their many experiences were watching bees make honey, learning about soil and water issues, and even milking a cow.



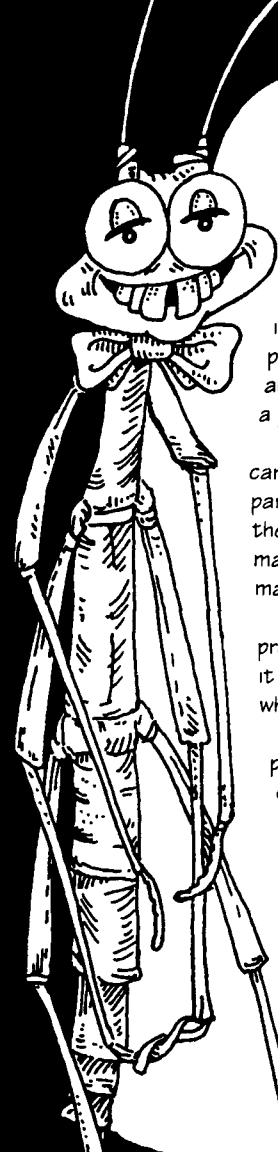
Greenwood Elementary school fourth graders hold newly hatched chicks at Farm-City Day. On left is Jim Shirk of PennAg Industries.



Candice Giles of Greenwood Elementary School has a new friend.

## Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



Dear Twig: What's the glop inside pumpkins called?

Well, I've always called it glop, too. But I checked with my scientist friends and they told me the technical term is "endosperm." Endosperm is the flesh around fruit seeds.

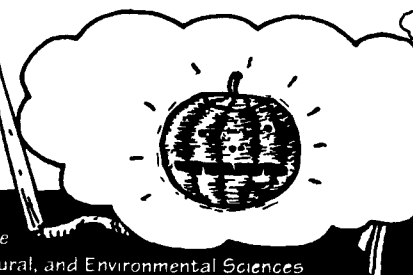
What does that mean? It means that a pumpkin is a fruit. Yep! Specifically, it's a type of fruit called a pepo ("pee-poe"). Pepoes are fleshy with a hard rind and many seeds, which, if you add "orange," describes a pumpkin to a T.

The part of the rind that you cut through when carving a jack o' lantern is the mesocarp. The inner part of the rind is the endocarp. The endocarp is where the seeds and the endosperm are produced. Juice is made here, too. The juice makes things slimy. The slime makes things gloppy. The result is sticky fingers.

What does endosperm actually do? It might protect and nourish the seeds, an important job. And it might make the fruit more attractive to animals, who, in eating the fruit, help spread the seeds around.

Not all pumpkins are gloppy inside. Ripe ones are pretty dry. And some varieties are gloppier than others. How do you know which is which, since all of them are orange? Cut one open and reach inside. If the sound you hear is "sploort" you'll know!

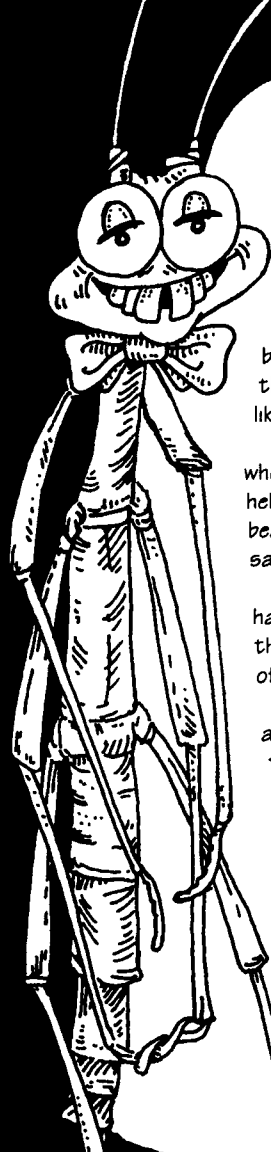
Twig



The Ohio State University, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

## Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



Dear Twig: I've heard that turkeys have beards. Is that true? Don't they shave? Ha ha ha.

Ah, that's a good one. In fact, it's true that many turkeys have beards. And it's also true that they don't shave, mainly because they don't have fingers to push the top of the shaving cream can.

The beard of a turkey is actually a cluster of bristly, hairlike feathers. But it's not on the face or the chin. It hangs on the front of the chest. It looks like a tail that's on the wrong end.

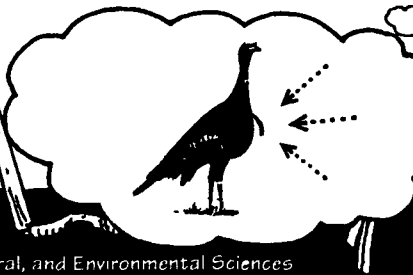
The beard appears on male turkeys, or toms, when the birds are about 11 weeks old. It's designed to help them attract females, or hens. Conversely, the beard on male humans is designed to attract pizza sauce.

In the wild, almost all toms and a very few hens have a beard. A few toms have such a very long beard that it actually drags on the ground! That's the sign of a big, old gobbler, one who rules the roost.

It's different on the farm. Some toms don't have a beard, some hens do, and in either case it's shorter than those on wild turkeys.

What do you know when you see a big bearded bird? It's probably a male turkey. And it might be in ZZ Top. Mercy!

Twig



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