

Kids Korner

Chester County 4-H Dairy Camp Weaves Together Fun, Education, Awards

NOTTINGHAM (Chester Co.) — In spite of the rainy weather, Memorial Day Weekend turned out to be a fun time for the Chester County Dairy 4-H Clubs. More than 25 dairy 4-H participants between the ages of eight and 18 gathered at Brian and Patty Huff's farm in Nottingham for a two-day 4-H camp.

The camp had been established three years ago when the Huff's saw a need to strengthen and nurture 4-H kids throughout Chester County.

"The event is intended to spark interest in the dairy industry, boost enthusiasm about showing calves, and provide time with friends," said Patty. "We just give them the setting and opportunity."

Given the prior year's success, this year's occasion proved to be nothing less.

Four Chester County Dairy Clubs participated in the two-day event: Manor, Tri-County, Chester Valley and Southern Chester County.

The 4-H kids were divided into three groups: seniors, juniors, and first- and second-year participants. Work sessions were prepared to accommodate the three levels. Saturday's sessions were one hour in length and covered topics such as showmanship, judging, giving reasons, clipping, calf selection, show classes and preparing a calf for a show.

After a rain-filled afternoon, the kids needed some fun and exercise and even though the game was played in the rain, the 4H-ers enjoyed a competitive game of football at the nearby park. Tri-County Dairy Club provided a delicious barbecue and it was back to Huffs for more sessions.

Saturday evening's mini sessions covered parliamentary procedure, troubleshooting show scenarios, how to properly register a show animal, knot tying, bedding packs, and the anatomy of a cow. The 4-H kids topped off the evening perfectly with an ice cream social.

After breakfast on Sunday, the

kids divided into three relay teams and participated in a very competitive relay race. To complete the race, the 4-Hers had to achieve the following: knot a show halter, straddle straw bales, pitch manure and wheelbarrow a load through cones, fill feed buckets, wrap up an electric cord, and squirt a picture of their team captain with a water gun.

"I had fun," said Randy Miller, Tri-County 4-H participant. "It was great running the relay races and learning about cows."

special addition to this year's program was a visit from the State Dairy Princess, Rachael Kilgore. She assisted in the barn testing and gave a small presentation over the lunch hour on the importance and value of a strong 4-H community.

The long-anticipated awards ceremony is the last event on the program. Everyone goes home a winner and feels important. The higher test scores get larger prizes with the grand prize for



Josh Spangler, left, racing Bradley Guest to the finish line.



Patty Huff, left, and Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Rachel Kilgore, right, stand with 4-H'ers participating in the Chester County Camp.

With the race over, the weekend took a more serious turn and the kids were ready for their testing. The 4-Hers were not only quizzed with a written test but were also tested one-on-one in the barn.

Divided into age groups, the kids were quizzed on cow anatomy and asked to analyze and compare animals (giving reasons as to why cow A should stand over cow B). Seniors took their test one step further and were asked to clip the top line of a heifer, just like they would for a show.

While the test scores were tallied, the 4-H kids and their families enjoyed a pot luck lunch. A

the overall senior being a show box, show halter, and blow dryer. The junior winner goes home with an equipment box and show halter, the first- and second-year winners take home a clipper-sized box and show halter.

This year's distinguished winners are as follows: Best Overall Senior: Hannah Wentworth, Quarryville; Most Improved Topline: Pat Jenkins, Toughkennaman; Best Topline: Abby Hedrick, Pottstown; First Place Junior: Paul Harrop, Lionville; First and Second Year Member: Julia Mills, Pocopson.

"4-H is about developing life skills, building friendships and hands on learning," said Jane Pebble, state director of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association. Jane and her husband Bob are big supporters of the weekend in leading workshops and planning activities.

She said, "This is the best thing that happened to Chester County Dairy Clubs in a long time. These young people are developing friendships, participating in competitive games, understanding teamwork and learning by doing."

Club leaders start planning next year's event months in advance and brainstorm about new sessions and activities throughout the year. There are also many farm companies and businesses that keep this event going by donating prizes and monies. This year, just to prove how much they loved the weekend, the Tri-County Club donated their entire fundraiser profits toward the occasion.

The vision that Patty and Brian Huff have for the Chester County Dairy Clubs is weaved with education, fun, and awards.

Patty summed up the weekend

by saying, "Dairy is important to Chester County. We hope that through this weekend, our 4-H kids understand and continue that importance with a lot of enthusiasm."

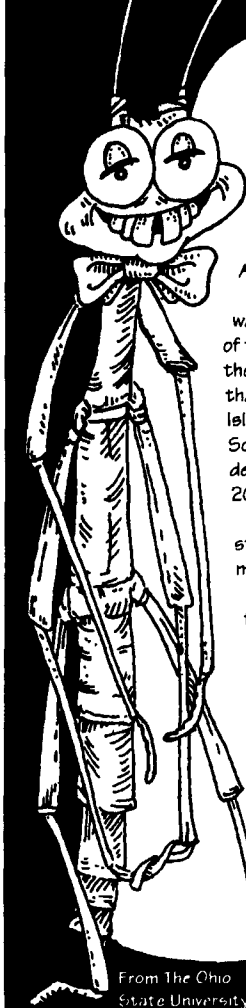
LeAnn Rimes Sings To Milk

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Double Grammy award-winning artist LeAnn Rimes is the latest musician to sing a melody to Mom in praise of milk. The "Celebrity Ode to Mom" radio spot, which is part of the National Milk Mustache/"got milk?" campaign, features famous recording artists trading in their usual lyrics for a tribute to America's favorite wholesome beverage: milk.

Rimes's song goes like this:
 Mom, it's your Baby
 it's you I adore
 for your loving ways
 and the milk you poured
 You'd pour me milk
 at the start of each day
 I'd gulp it all down
 and head on my way
 Milk's nine vitamins,
 minerals, too
 helped give me strong teeth and bones

now I'm singing to you
 Mom, thanks for milk
 three times a day
 Made me so strong
 in a million of ways

Smart Stuff with Twig Walkingstick



Dear Twig: Please tell me more about the wetlands of Iraq. I've heard them called the Garden of Eden.

Thirty years ago, the ancient, fertile wetlands of Iraq covered nearly 8,000 square miles. That's about the size of the state of Massachusetts. The marshes teemed with shrimp and herons, otters and fish, and half a million indigenous people: the Ma'dan, or Marsh Arabs, who farmed and fished there.

Then drainage canals were built. The canals cut off water from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the lifeblood of the wetlands. The wetlands began to dry and die. Today they're a shocking 90 percent smaller, slashed to less than 600 square miles, less than the size of Rhode Island. The animals that live there have been devastated. So have the Ma'dan, who saw their land and homes destroyed. (Imagine how they felt.) Many fled. Only about 20,000 Ma'dan still live there.

Now, with the war in Iraq over, scientists hope to stop the loss. They're planning ways to restore the marshes.

The region is known as the Fertile Crescent. It's thought to be the site of the Biblical Garden of Eden.

Gardens, of course, need water.

Dryly,

Twig



From The Ohio State University (specifically, OARDC and OSU Extension)



Award winners, from left, are Paul Harrop, junior division; Julia Mills, first and second-year division; and Hannah Wentworth, senior division.