

Kids Korner

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LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — This week a three-day event drew thousands of people to a dairy farm to take a wagon tour, sample ice cream and milk, or take part in a scavenger hunt.

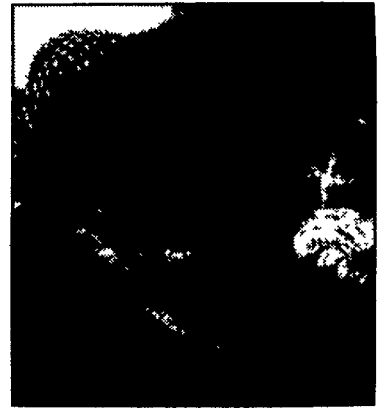
The annual event, sponsored by the Lancaster Chamber and Oregon Dairy, also included a chick hatching display, straw tunnels, pony rides, a chicken barbecue, sheep shearing, and a Conservation Expo by the Lancaster County Conservation District.

Visitors also had a chance to watch the dairy's cows begin milked and meet Lancaster County dairy princess royalty.

The Conservation Expo included a stream study and walk each day, an Enviroscape demonstration, and other activities for children.

Last year approximately 10,000 people attended the event, a number based on the quantity of ice cream cones handed out to visitors.

The event introduces community members to Lancaster County agriculture as they tour the dairy, a 600-acre operation that includes a large store and restaurant. Oregon Dairy began selling milk at a small store on the premises in 1974. The farm includes a methane digester that produces electricity used on the farm.



Roxanne Molnar, industry relations director at the Pennsylvania Beef Council, applied many hamburger tattoos to little arms and hands to promote the beef industry.



Dairy ambassador Jenna Martin, Ephrata, hands out dairy promotion items to eager takers.

Photos by Michelle Kunjappu



Above, from left, Shari Nolt, 12, and Katelyn Hoover, 12, both from Lititz, helped to scoop out ice cream samples to visitors.



Above, in the foreground Alexsei Kuvshnikov, 8, and his brother, Nikolai, 4, Chicago, meet a calf up close and personal during the event.

Safety first: At left, J. Owen Reese, 7, Mount Joy, washes up after petting the calves.



In the foreground Matthew Loser, 7, Marietta, and Robert Mong, 8, Waynesboro, enjoy riding high in one of the available tractors.



Visitors had a chance to watch the herd being milked from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.



From left, Hannah Miller, 2, Denver, and Addie Moore, 3, Lancaster, alternate between sips of milk and bites of ice cream cone.



A scavenger hunt had young participants talking to vendors and reading educational posters such as these.



The chick-hatching display was educational for children such as Garrett Graupensperger, 4, Landisville.



Andrew 9, and Micah Roth, 7, Lititz, learn about a cow's daily water consumption, part of the educational displays for the public to read.

