

Kids Korner

Lone Star Gives Kelly A Wild Ride



Kelly King, 12, recuperates in the hospital after her 4-H calf took her for a wild ride.

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Food And Family
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COCHRANVILLE (Chester Co.) — For kids who have a really tame animal for their 4-H project, Kelly King has some advice: Never attach the rope or halter to your waist.

Last summer, Kelly was preparing her dairy beef calf named Lone Star for the Lancaster County 4-H Fair. The day before the event, Kelly decided to give Lone Star a bath. She didn't want Lone Star's leather halter to get damaged from water, so she decided to attach a rope to Lone Star.

While making the switch, she tied the halter around her waist to free her hands to attach the rope.

The noise of a distant motor spooked Lone Star. The calf tore off, toppling Kelly and dragging her behind him. Her back scraped across pavement and loose stones. Because the length of the halter was so short, Kelly was so close to the calf that the calf's hooves kicked her again and again in her face and chest. After dragging her for 50 yards, family members halted the calf.

Kelly was covered with blood, and had severe bruising and cuts, especially in the eye area from repeated hoof kicks. Although Kelly had a slight concussion, she did not have internal injuries.

Instead of showing her calf at the 4-H Fair, Kelly ended up in the hospital for three days. A plastic surgeon carefully stitched the damage to her face. Today, Kelly has a slight facial scar, which she hopes will fade with time.

It was a disappointment for Kelly not to be able to show her 4-H calf, but the incident turned out to help one of Kelly's friends, whose calf was sick and couldn't compete in the fair. Kelly's friend showed Lone Star, and took first place for showmanship.

The calf was sold at the 4-H Fair, but Kelly will never forget Lone Star and her wild ride.

Since then, Kelly has had more opportunities in livestock events. Two weeks ago, Kelly tied for first place in the junior division for dairy judging at the Chester County Holstein Day. The year before, Kelly won a free calf in a drawing sponsored by the Chester County Holstein Field Day.



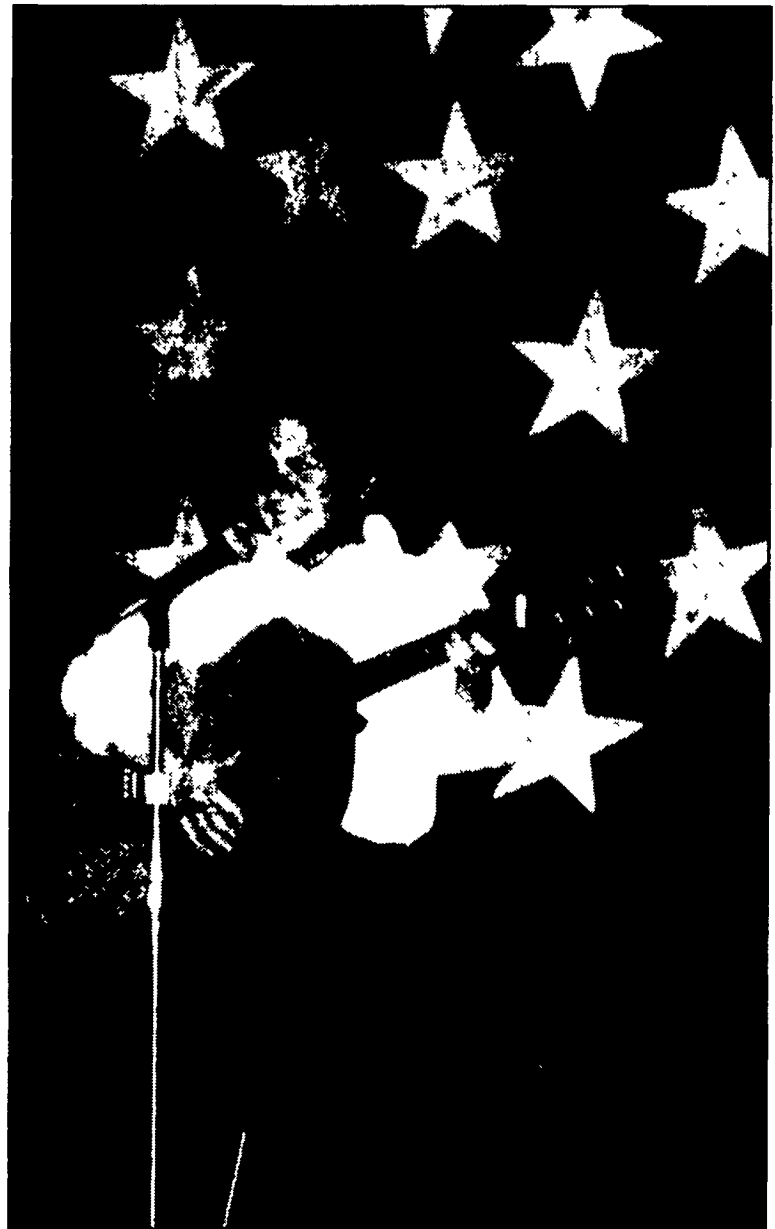
Kelly King holds the halter of her 4-H dairy beef calf Owen, which replaces Lone Star.



Kelly holds Chocolate Chip, one of several puppies on her family's farm. Turn to page B2 to read more about the King family.



Kelly's brother, Colton, also enjoys raising dairy beef for 4-H. He wants to take over the family farm someday.



Colton King sings country during a 4-H talent show. The 10-year-old placed third, singing an Allan Jackson song, "That'd Be All Right," while competing against 13-year-olds. Read about Colton's family on page B2, and about his sister's wild ride on this page.

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick

Dear Twig: Why the concern about big ocean fish? I thought there were plenty.

Until recently, many people thought the same thing. They thought the oceans were full of big fish. They thought those fish would always be there for catching, selling, buying and eating. They thought big schools of other big fish were out there just waiting to be caught. They thought, as it turns out, wrong.

In May, a study in the scientific journal *Nature* reported that 90 percent of the oceans' big fish — cod, tuna and swordfish among them — are gone, devastated over the past 50 years by industrialized fishing. New technology — fish-finding sonar, factory ships, "longlines" that stretch for 50 miles — has helped fleets haul in more and more fish. People have caught the fish a lot faster than the fish have been able to reproduce.

The study also found that the big fish that are left — the surviving 10 percent — are, on average, only one-half to one-fifth as big as they were 50 years ago. The fish aren't getting to grow as old.

How can we help? Can they recover? The scientists who did the study say the total catch must be cut in half. Doing that wouldn't be easy. Fishing gives people food and jobs. But it will be harder on people, not to mention the fish, if all those fish are wiped out.

Big yellow taxly.

Twig

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

