

# Kids Korner

## Life On The Farm With Berks County Li'l Dairy Miss Jessica Duncan



Jessica drives the Ranger from her home to the cornfield with dog Mazie accompanying her.



The maze contains surprises, such as this, for kids.



Jessica, Luke, and her dad stroll through the corn maze.

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ROBESONIA (Berks Co.) — Life on the farm means never-ending variety for Berks County's Li'l Dairy Miss Jessica Duncan.

Like most dairy farm kids, Jessica has her own calves and is responsible caring for them and other farm chores. But she also performs some other amazing duties at the family farm's Duncan's Corn Maze, from September through the first weekend in November.

Jessica's only seven years old, but already she is poised and confident in interacting with adults and children of all ages.

When Jessica competed for the title of Li'l Dairy Miss at the Berks County Dairy Princess Pageant in May, she recited a poem. She often recites the poem when she visits nursing homes, schools, and other events to promote the dairy industry.

She flips through pages of illustrations she colored while reciting the following poem, which her teacher at Conrad Weiser Elementary School helped her write:

**I Love Ice Cream**

*I is for icy, cold (shiver)  
C is for chocolate ice cream  
E is for excellent nutrition,  
butter, cheese, and yogurt  
C is for calcium to keep  
bones strong  
R is for raspberry ice cream  
E is for everybody loves ice  
cream  
A is for all the time is a  
good time for ice cream  
M is for milk mustache (she  
takes a sip of milk, which  
gives her a milk mustache)*

Some of her unusual experiences include going up in an airplane to view the corn maze from the air.

"I didn't get sick, and I could easily read it," Jessica said of the message carved into the waving cornfields: "Real Seal, 3-A-Day." The slogan refers to the dairy promotion that reminds everyone that three daily servings of dairy products are needed for strong bones and teeth and to avoid osteoporosis.

In fact, the message was selected because Jessica's job as the Berks County Li'l Dairy Miss is to promote milk and dairy products. Her parents, D.J. and Loretta Duncan, carve a different design in their fields every year. Visitors find their way through the cornfield maze by selecting right answers to clues along the way.

Jessica made up a sheet of clues for visitors to use. During special events conducted during the corn maze hours, Jessica operates a tent where visitors can participate in face-painting and pumpkin-painting. She also hand-stamps a pumpkin on visitors to the maze.

If the weather is hot enough, visitors solving the maze can cool off in the "Rain Room," which has a big fan that blows a mist over visitors.

The Rain Room is one of Jessi-



Li'l Dairy Miss Jessica recites her poem, "I Love Ice Cream."

ca's and her 7-year-old brother Luke's favorite activities in the maze. Another favorite activity is the pumpkin sling, where people use a sling shot to shoot pumpkins at a target.

"It's fun to watch the pumpkins splat," Jessica said.

On occasion, she likes to accompany the hayride given to visitors. The tractor and wagon rides take visitors around the farm and area with a stop at the calf barns. That's where Jessica's special calves are growing.

During October, the hayride stops at the Duncan's one-acre pumpkin patch for visitors to choose a pumpkin.

Jessica also hands out ribbons in dairy shows at fairs.

"I can't wait until I'm old enough to join 4-H," she said.

If you want, you can visit the Duncan's Corn Maze for great fun. The corn maze is located on the Robesonia-Bernville Road, one mile from Rt. 422 or six miles from Rt. 183.

The maze is open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from September through Nov. 1-2, from 1 p.m.-8 p.m. Admission is \$5 for 5 years old and older, and \$2 for 5-year-olds and younger.

For more information, call the Duncans at (610) 693-8056 or check out the Website, [www.duncanscornmaze.com](http://www.duncanscornmaze.com).



Jessica makes sure her calves get lots of cuddling. Her brother Luke also likes to play with the calves.



Jessica and her brother Luke cool off in the rain room erected in the Duncan Family's Corn Maze.