

On The Farm With Carla Martin

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and adds to the public's misconceptions about milk labeling. Extended shelf life (EXL) milk, which can last 40 days, is misleading to a customer who compares the shelf life of fresh milk to the extended shelf-life milk.

Consumers are inclined to believe that EXL milk is fresher because the listed date is extended. Also store managers prefer to stock longer-lasting products, and are more inclined to stock shelves with it.

On the other hand, many consumers don't like the taste of the EXL milk and may equate that flavor to all milk, and cease purchasing milk.

Dairy products have always been a vital part of the Martin family's menus. Since Carla continues to learn more about dairy

nutrition, she has become more vocal with friends and peers in stressing the importance of using real dairy products — not chocolate-flavored water or whipped topping. She reminds friends that sodas contain 12 teaspoons of sugar — all empty calories.

Carla has quite an impressive array of talents, in addition to speaking and writing. She plays piano for her church worship team, sings solos and in concert with other family members for churches and even writes songs and music for performances.

Carla has also won awards for her photography, taught Ag in the Classroom sessions, led weekly religious education classes in public schools, and coached an elementary school volleyball team.

Carla was the former Manheim Fair Queen and was named



The 300-acre Danda Farm is home to Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Carla Martin. Her family operates an organic dairy and beef operation and raises 50,000 broilers for the New York live market.

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one of the five finalists for the Pennsylvania Fair Queen title.

She has taken classes at Lancaster Bible College. Her hobbies include horseback riding, music, sports, 4-wheeler riding, and scrapbooking.

The Martin family has had many interesting stories to tell about what its like growing up in such a large family.

The parents consider it a work in progress, and one that constantly needs to be reevaluated. For instance, when David wanted to buy a 4-wheeler for the children's recreation, Robbin convinced him the vehicles were too dangerous and suggested buying camp horses for the children.

Within the first year, numerous children suffered broken arms and sprains from falling off a horse.

The family decided it was time to get rid of the horses and buy a 4-wheeler. Fortunately, they haven't had an accident.

People often ask how the Martins can afford so many children. David said, "We receive more fulfillment from our children than the farm."

The Martins believe that



The Martin's eldest son, Joshua, is in the farm partnership with his dad and coordinates the farm work. The family's three farms adds up to about 300 acres. Additional acreage from neighboring fields are also farmed.

too many people see children as a liability and prefer money over children.

Robbin said, "The Lord has always provided our needs. We see God provide in so many unexpected ways, such as people with show dogs asking to purchase the bones from the organic meat we raise."

"Who would ever have thought someone would be willing to pay for the bones?" she asked.

The Martins believe that children should be raised to become responsible citizens, and should be given responsibility at a young age so that when

they are adults, it is not a shock.

Josh oversees most of the farm operation on its 300 acres plus additional rented land.

Carla and Susanna prepare a milking schedule. Four family members are assigned to help with each milking. One of those assigned is always a younger family member to help them acquire experience.

Eight-year-old Noah is the youngest to assist in milking duties, but the quickest to arise to help with the morning milking. A Swing-14 parlor was installed to milk the 120-130 cows.

"Success is finding satisfaction in work" is a concept promoted by the parents. But that doesn't mean it's all work and no play on the farm. Most of the older children are involved in volleyball.

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