

In First Children's Barnyard Animals Spend Day With 1,200 Kids

KIDS AND ANIMALS SEEM TO GO TOGETHER. More than 1,200 first graders from Brazos Valley had an opportunity to see and handle many kinds of farm animals Wednesday in the TAMU first annual "Children's Barnyard."

The youngsters from Brazos, Madison, Grimes and Burleson counties were treated to guided tours through TAMU's poultry, swine, dairy and horse operations.

The event was sponsored by the Saddle and Siroloin Club and the Dairy Science Club at Texas A&M. The first group of youngsters began their two-hour tour at 8:30 a.m., and the program continued through 4 p.m.

Valerie Hendrix, a sophomore animal science major from Marion, Tex., is chairwoman of the "Children's Barnyard" committee. She said busloads of children drove as much as two hours to get to College Station.

"The children are having the time of their lives," she noted.

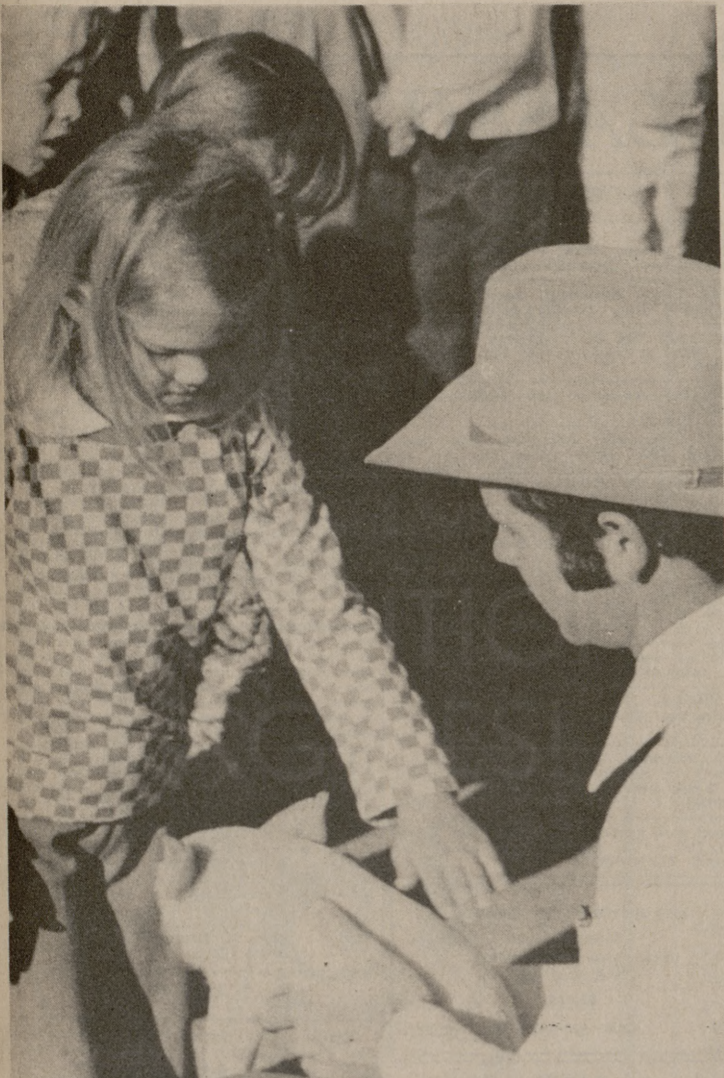
"Although many of them are from rural homes, they haven't seen an operation like this with so many different animals."

She added the children were given an ice cream break as part of their tour, with Blue Bell Creamery of Brenham, headed by former Aggie Ed Kruse, supplying 3,000 ice cream bars for the youngsters.

The children were "shotgunned" through the agricultural complex in staggered tours, according to transportation chairman Billy Lloyd, a sophomore pre-vet student from Hereford. Each bus carried a student guide, provided by two sponsoring clubs.

Highlights of the tour included a cheese-making demonstration at the Dairy Science Center, petting tours through animal barns, and demonstrations of livestock handling equipment.

Miss Hendrix expressed optimism for a continuing "Children's Barnyard" program on an annual basis at TAMU.



Photos by Frank Martin



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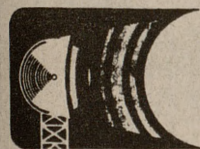
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