

Joe Jurgielewicz & Son, Lt d. Newsl et t er

SPECIAL EDITION

June 2010

Hamburg Middle School Comes to the Duck Farm

On May 14th, 2010, Beth Horrigan, Science teacher at Hamburg Middle School, along with eager



Touring the Farm

and receptive sixth graders came to Joe Jurgielewicz & Son's duck farm for a field trip. Mrs. Horrigan said that the children have been studying embryology in the classroom. They candled both chicken and duck eggs comparing them as they grew. They designed models and wrote stories about the eggs development and created hilarious comic strips. They even learned about the agri-business system. Mrs. Horrigan said, "The grand finale



Joey Scioscia with a duckling

was the field trip to the duck farm which tied everything together". When the children arrived back at school, each one wrote wonderful thank you letters to Dr. Joe and the Farm.



Inside the Duck House

701 Windsor Street
Hamburg, PA 14856
5/14/10

Dear Dr Jurgielewicz,

Hi my name is Chase Albrecht, I am a student on the G-Red team. I would like to thank you for my Duck Farm experience.

I learned much in school but understood things better because of the field trip. One thing I learned in school was that there is a certain food ducks eat called duck starter. One thing I on the trip is that there is Vitamins, vegetables, corn, and wheat flour in the food pellets. Another thing I learned in school is that that the incubator's temperature needs to be 98.5°-100°. Another thing I learned on the trip is that humidity needs to be 89.8°.

I learned things that were not taught in school. One thing I learned was that the beak of a female turns pale when she starts laying eggs. Another thing I learned was that the ducks are moved from one layer house to another every 4-6 weeks.

I would like to know about some things. One thing I would like to know is how long you have been in this business? Another thing I would like to know is how many eggs the company produces - per year.

I would like to thank you again for having the 6th Grade come to your farm. I was fascinated by the farm and the work you guys do. Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,
Chase Albrecht
Chase Albrecht

Thank you for your gracious and informative letters. We would like to share one the letters from Chase Albrecht.



Egg Incubator

The students had asked some questions in their letters. Below are only a few of their questions.

- **How long have you been in business?** Joe Jurgielewicz & Son, LTD has been in business for over 25 years.
- **How many eggs the company produces per year?** The farm produces over 4 million eggs in a year.
- **How old are the ducks when they begin to lay eggs?** The female ducks are 22 weeks old when they can begin laying eggs.
- **How long do the eggs stay inside the incubator?** The eggs will need to stay inside the incubator for at least 28 days.
- **Can more than one embryo hatch in one egg?** Yes, more than one embryo can hatch from a single egg.
- **How do you pick which ducks are used to lay eggs and which ones get processed?** Size, uniformity, and Breeder flock history
- **How long does it take for a duck embryo to develop?** Embryo starts to develop immediately after being placed in the incubator at 98.5 degree temperature.
- **How do you grade an egg?** By the size, shell quality, and cleanliness
- **What is the beak made of?** The outside surface of the beak is covered by a thin horny sheath of keratin called the rhamphotheca.
- **How much food does a duck eat?** Between 2.5 and 2.75#’s per pound of body weight gained.
- **Why are the ducks waxed inside the processing plant?** When the ducks are processed they are waxed to remove the Down.
- **How many places do you ship your duck?** We ship our duck to the East Coast, South, and Midwest. And some distributors even request our ducks for overseas markets and West Coast markets. We deliver fresh ducks daily, six days per week to New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

We would like to also thank Mrs. Vardjan, Mr. Schaeffer, and Mr. Kistler for also coming to the farm along with the 6th graders from Hamburg Middle School.

Chase Albrecht	Jacob Ludy	Jacob Conrad	Mike McCann	Abbie Smith
Paige Miller	Emily Kavka	Zach Lugo	Emily Morgan	Alexia Schmuck
Camden Bausher	Kellov Monra	Josh Vanderpool	Jeremiah Justinians	Nick Kuhn
Kelsey Brandstatter	Annie Crider	Cheyenne Rudis	Kylie Whitmoyer	Julian Kramer
Andrew Dietrilh	Audrey Hammer	Dalton Werley	Bailey Borrell	Justin Balthaser
Elizabeth Brown	Josh Adam	Rebecca Blatt	Alicia Pursell	Daniel Le
Brandon Begoniewski	Nate Parent	Brandon Eyster	DJ Gromlich	Grace Gallagher
Justin Bryant	Aleesha Dixon	Jarred Steinfurth	Lindsey Bohn	Tyler Herber
Zachary Rhoades	Valerie Yoder	Ethan Madara	Austin Schlonker	Gabby Stewart
Kayla Arndt	Brandon Smith	Matt Shaw	Megan Marsh	Christopher O'Neill
Zoey Adam	Joey Cotto	Esmeralda Klahr	Steven Rumbel	Katrina Crawford
Brendon Lash	Connor Klang	Zach Loeb	Mike Hummel	Kiley Roland
Shyla Hicks	Brett Schloppich	Briana Knarr	Alyssa Muller	Amber Ney
Dylan Zellner	Divine Tinner	Gabe Daughtry	Matthew James	Brett Potts
Lucas Houck	Morgan DeLong	Samantha Lesniak	Lauren Bittner	Zack Govern
Michael Madara	Rebecca Wooley	Hunter Schlachter	Brandon Porter	Rhiannon Elias
Isabelle Caruso	Ryan Smith	Josh Sloan	Chelsea Forrest	