



Bill Ironside/London Free Press

Adam Fowler, a Grade 3 pupil at Franklin D. Roosevelt Public School in London, tries his hand at shaking cream into butter Thursday, but he doesn't seem to find the transformation appealing. He and classmates were visiting the Glanworth farm of Bob Shore as part of a school program on the importance of agriculture. *Mar. 26/87*

## London kids get first-hand glimpse of life on a Glanworth dairy farm

By Anne Murphy  
London Free Press

GLANWORTH — For a city kid, Lucas Husband knows a good Holstein cow when he sees one.

Undaunted by the machine-gun delivery of auctioneer Bob Shore, eight-year-old Lucas managed to outbid about 200 other youngsters and "bought" a Holstein for a mere \$8,000.

Considering that Shore has sold a cow worth \$1.45 million at his auction barns south of here, Lucas picked up a real "bar-goan."

There's not much room in the Husband family garage for such an acquisition, even if does save on trips to the corner store for milk. Fortunately, the sale was only pretend and Lucas didn't have to explain his purchase to his bewildered family.

The sale was part of a dairy day to introduce city youngsters to the importance of agriculture in their lives, said B. J. McLaren, one of the organizers. About 800 primary school pupils visited the Shore operation over two days.

Tours of dairy farms had been an integral part of the primary social

studies program on the importance of agriculture but an incident at a Lambton County dairy farm last April caused many farmers to cancel visits because of concerns about liability insurance, McLaren said.

Farmers became "antsy" after several Sarnia youngsters fell ill — three of them seriously — following a farm visit, McLaren said. Unpasteurized milk was believed to be responsible for the flu-like illness.

Rather than give up the visits, the Middlesex Milk Committee and the Association for Food and Agricultural Awareness looked for a central location where a number of groups could be accommodated, she said. The Glanworth site fit the bill.

On Thursday, the youngsters were given milk but it was pasteurized and served up in cardboard cartons.

That wasn't their only taste of the dairy industry as guides explained everything from how a calf is born feet first to why it takes 11 litres (9.5 quarts) of milk to produce one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of cheese.

The youngsters also learned what cows eat, how farmers can tell one cow from another and why it's im-

portant to be careful around the farm. There were seven areas covered in the 2½-hour session, plus the auction.

As for Lucas, the highlight was standing beside the cow he "bought." The only thing he didn't like was sitting on the planks in the makeshift classrooms.

For many of the youngsters, Thursday's dairy day was their first close encounter with farm animals.

Middlesex County Dairy Princess Peggy O'Neil was also a hit, at least in the minds of Westmount Public School Grade 3 pupils Tara Harris and Andrew Mitchell.

"I never knew there was a dairy queen," said Andrew.

*March 26/87*