

Country vs. City

Dear Tim:

Have you seen this new reality TV show they started running this summer? It's called *Amish In The City*. Apparently they took a handful of Amish kids from the Midwest and put them up in a fancy house in L.A. with a bunch of city kids to see what would happen when the bumpkins got a taste of "real life." Needless to say, there was plenty of snickering at the Amish kids' clothes and customs. I don't know about you, but in a straight-up fight, I'd take the hard-working country kids over the spoiled city kids any day. Who you got?

—Country Boy on Kenbrook

Dear Country:

Unlike the producers of schlock shows like this, I'm not big on stereotypes. I think there are advantages to almost every kind of upbringing. While the labor of country living is a valuable teaching tool, it's not the only way to raise mindful, respectful, disciplined kids. There are plenty of hard-working city kids out there, too. And if you don't believe me, stop in some-



DEAR TIM

time after school and you'll see what I mean. That said, I'm a big fan of Amish traditions. I've yet to find furniture more solid and sturdy than the Amish make, and the Amish country chickens we stock in our fresh meat case are some of the most wholesome, nutritious and best-tasting you'll find. Pick some up and see for yourself, and leave the stereotyping to the TV twits.

Dear Tim:

Some friends of ours are getting married in a couple of weeks. Any gift ideas?

—Gifter on Guilford

Dear Gifter:

We make a wonderful wedding soup, but I'm not sure that will last until the event. My best suggestion is *My House Wine*, our custom-label wine service. You choose from a wide variety of quality California wines, including Chardonnays, Merlots, Cabernets and Champagnes, and we apply a custom-designed label to the bottle to create a one-of-a-kind wine. We can include a photo of the bride and groom or anything you think would make the bottle unique. They can share it on a romantic dinner date or save it for a special occasion. And even after they've enjoyed the contents, the bottle makes a great keepsake. I'm no Martha Stewart (mostly because my broker won't take my calls), but I think it's a good thing.

Dear Tim:

O-H.

—Brutus on Buckley

Dear Brutus:

I-O.

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