

December 2013

THE RED BARN REPORT

Looking Back at the 2013

This year has been quite a busy year at the Farm Museum. With a grant from the Wiley Foundation the museum was able to open its doors to a record breaking 570 local students. These local children from various area schools came to the museum to take part in our "Day on the Farm" Virginia Standards of Learning based field trips. With the help of the Master Gardeners and our hard working volunteers we were able to provide hands on activities in our "outdoor classroom" correlating with the learning that takes place in their classroom. Two additional grants were awarded to the museum this year, enabling more students to attend. If you would like to schedule a school trip, please contact the museum at 804.761.5952.

Threshing Day

This is a new event for the museum in our upcoming season and will be held on June 28, 2014. Visitors can expect to see demonstrations of grain threshing machines and equipment from an old fashioned "threshing crew," farm equipment displays and demonstrations from the horse drawn era to the present, sawmill operation and displays of logging equipment. Also, farm animal "petting zoo," local food, music and much more!

Fun, Food, and Farming

The Farm Museum has all three: fun, food, and farming each year. The directors hosted the 6th Spring and 7th Fall Farm to Fork Dinners. *The Art of Coffee*, Montross, provided our guest chef Terry Cosgrove for the May dinner, and *Willaby's Restaurant*, White Stone, chef William Barnhart cooked our October meal. At each dinner talented chefs prepare our menus using as many vegetables, fruits, wines, and meats as can be found from local producers. Many of our local produce stands and farmers donate their food items. Also, an amazing gift basket is raffled off using many locally produced items. Recently tickets to a concert and a football game were raffled off. One never knows what might be in the next gift basket. If you have not attended our dinners, I hope you will consider buying tickets for the May 19, 2014 or October 18, 2014 dinner. The tickets are \$50.00 each. You can reserve tickets by calling Bonnie Chandler, 804.493.8182, or 804.450.8182. Help us celebrate our local farming heritage and have a fun evening at the Museum.



Fall Family Festival

Closing day, October 27, was celebrated with “Fall Family Festival.” A big hit for this event was the premiere of our *new bounce barn*. The young people thoroughly enjoyed jumping, climbing and sliding down the slide. The corn maze was open for visitors to try and work their way through to the end. Guests had the opportunity to enjoy an old fashion farm wagon ride to our pumpkin patch. Pony rides were available and the little ones enjoyed the corn trailer. A power-saw exhibitor demonstrated power saws, and our own saw mill was in operation. Also, guests could shell corn the old-fashioned way. We want to thank the people who set up displays and those volunteers who participated in our events this year. It takes a lot of work to accomplish our special days, and we are always looking for help. If you would like to volunteer to help out at the museum, please call 804.761.5952.



Young Farmers Day

Added this year was the **Young Farmer's Day** which was held on August 10. We had quite an assortment of activities. Chickens, bee-keeping, the Soil and Water Conservation trailer, pony rides, a corn trailer (children played in the corn), butter making, weaving, flint making were all available for the day. Wesley Berry and his father Kevin came and set up their farm toy display. Their displays included a working farm with corn growing in a field to a tractor-pull getting ready to start. His display captivated both young and old! Also, father and son, Aubrey and Stan Mitchell showed their toy pull tractors, a pulling sled, and two pedal combines. Children had a chance to ride on the tractors and try their hand at pulling the sled! The Master Gardeners were on hand in our garden to show off their pride and joy and talk about the value of gardening and growing your own fruits and vegetables. We sincerely appreciate all the hard work everyone put into making this event a SUCCESS!



Master Gardener's Report

The Farm Museum and Master Gardeners have finished the first garden season with the new cistern and irrigation system. Master Gardeners are pleased to have a steady and quality supply of water for the garden allowing them to plant more crops during the season. John Lunsford designed and installed a drip irrigation system with a timer and controls for efficient use of the water. Students from field trips and YMCA enjoyed learning garden procedures and management. Excess produce from the garden went to the local food bank, receiving an astounding 1,850 pounds of food. The cistern is a great demonstration of storm water management and use of a resource that would have just run down the hill. Thanks to USDA Rural Development for the equipment grant and to museum directors for extra contributions that aided installation and equipment. Thanks to the Master Gardeners for all their work at the garden and especially to Mr. Lunsford for some very valuable assistance with installation.

The Farm Museum Awarded Two Educational Grants

This year The Northern Neck Farm Museum was awarded two educational grants from The Nettie Lokey Wiley and Charles L. Wiley Foundation and DuPont Pioneer. The Wiley Foundation awarded the museum another grant this year. This year they awarded the museum a grant in the amount of \$6,000. These funds will be used to assist the museum with the cost of our educational field trips. DuPont Pioneer Community Giving Grant awarded the museum an educational grant for \$5,000. These funds will be used for field trips and curriculum modification. Thanks to Ginny Barnes for her support and assistance with this grant.

FARM MUSEUM CISTERN & IRRIGATION PROJECT

The District assisted the Northern Neck Farm Museum with the development, design and grant search for a rain harvest cistern and irrigation system in support of a community teaching vegetable garden. After a four year search for financial support, a grant was acquired from the USDA Rural Development Community Gardens Program for \$5,400 for equipment purchase.

The Museum covered the balance of equipment cost as well as all installation costs and with in-kind donations the project cost came to \$11,158.00. Two 1,050 gallon poly tanks and submersible pump were installed underground, collecting rainfall from one side of the Farm Museum exhibit hall roof and pumping water to the Northern Neck Master Gardener managed 1,500 square foot garden site.

Classes are conducted for 50 local YMCA youth on garden management, for Farm Museum school field trips (500 youth) and for Museum special events. Produce in excess of 1,000 pounds per year is donated to a local food bank. The project will serve as a model and demonstration of rain harvesting and storm water management for the community.

Cistern tanks being placed for rainfall collection at Northern Neck Farm Museum



**N O R T H E R N
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M U S E U M**

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804.761.5952

For More Information about programs
and special events at the NNFM please
call: **804.761.5952**
Or email us at:
NNFarmMuseum@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at:
www.theFARM MUSEUM.org
Like us on Facebook at:
Northern Neck Farm Museum

The Museum's Hours of Operation:

**Open May through October.
Saturdays 10-2 and Sundays 1-4**

Admission:

Adults, \$2.00

Children, \$1.00

Children under 6, Free

Family Memberships are available.

Newsletter printed by The Northern Neck Planning District Commission

Looking Forward into 2014

Opening Day: Saturday, May 3

**Spring Farm to Fork Dinner:
Saturday, May 17**

Threshing Day: Saturday, June 28

See demonstrations of grain threshing machines and equipment from the horse drawn era to the present. Also sawmill operation, farm animals, local food and music, and much more.

**Fall Farm to Fork Dinner:
Saturday, October 18**

~ C O L L E C T A B L E T R A C T O R S ~ F O R S A L E

The Northern Neck Farm Museum has a limited number of Collectable Tractors available for sale. The first in our series is the Allis Chalmers D-15 Hi-Crop which sells for \$70.00. Other models will be added to the collection in the future. Tractors can be purchased at the Museum Gift Shop or contact us by e m a i l a t : NNFarmMuseum@gmail.com.

All proceeds go to support The Farm Museum.



Allis Chalmers D-15 Hi-Crop Tractor

COME SEE WHAT'S NEW AT THE NNFM THIS SPRING