

December 2012

THE RED BARN REPORT

NORTHERN NECK FARM MUSEUM REMEMBERS ITS FOUNDER, INSPIRATION AND HEART & SOUL

Luther Everette Welch, prominent Northumberland County farmer, historian and philanthropist, passed away on Thanksgiving Day.

He was nearly 81. He often said that the land and everything on it "belongs to the Man Upstairs." Now he's with him. The son of Ray and Marie Welch of Edwardsville, Luther was born in the depths of the Great Depression. He liked to relate that the doctor who delivered him was paid "two gallons of milk and a roasting hen" for his services and was glad to have that. Tending livestock, plowing behind a mule and shocking wheat by hand from a very early age, he developed an intense love of the land and an immense capacity for hard work. He thought there was no higher calling than to till the soil and grow food for a hungry world. He never saw a prettier sight than a well-tended farm or a healthy crop. His favorite thing was

"rain when you need it." This summer he raised vegetables for the people of Tangier Island. He loved watermelons, chocolate ice cream and banjos. He was a devoted and loving, if sometimes challenging, husband to his wife of 60 years, Margaret Pitman Welch, who survives him. Also left to mourn are his daughters, Marie Goode (Ned) and Sylvia Saunders (Tom); and his son, Alan Welch (Dana); grandchildren, Heather Goode Gagnon (Chris), Michelle Goode Gordon (Adam), Holly Saunders, Lincoln Saunders (Ashley), Ashly Welch and Justin Welch; great-granddaughters, Addison Gordon and Gracie Gagnon; and a sister, Gwendolyn Diehl of Arkansas. Luther was a member of Morattico Baptist Church where he was a deacon for nearly 50 years. He was a former member of the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District and a member of the Rehoboth Church Ruritan Club and the Northumberland County Young Farmers. With his wife, he donated the land and core collection for the Northern Neck Farm Museum near Burgess. Its Luther Welch Agricultural Center was named in his honor.



COME SEE WHAT'S NEW AT THE NNFM

Be sure to stop by the museum and take a look at our new exhibits this spring.

GETTING TO KNOW
NNFM BOARD MEMBERS:
RAWLEIGH SIMMONS & JOHNNY JONES

1. Which county do you live in?

Rawleigh: Northumberland

Johnny: Westmoreland

2. What was the last movie you saw? What is your Favorite Movie?

Rawleigh: I really cannot remember!! LOL!

Johnny: Old Dogs

3. What are your Hobbies?

Rawleigh: Old farming equipment, metal working, boating

Johnny: Working

4. Do you have any children? Any Pets?

Rawleigh: A 10 year old stepson and a 3 month old daughter, and a Shih Tzu dog named Bella.

Johnny: 2 daughters - Frannie, married to Brady. They live in Austin, MN with their 2 children - Ella and Grafton. Kate - lives in Millers Tavern.

5. What is one thing you cannot live without? Why?

Rawleigh: My family, because they keep me sane!!

Johnny: My wife. She knows where the papers are!

6. What is the one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

Rawleigh: I would rather be farming!

Johnny: I am poor as dirt! (don't know what else to say)

7. What is the best thing about NNFM?

Rawleigh: Preserving a way of life and knowledge that would otherwise fade into oblivion with the passing of another generation. I like running exhibits, like the sawmill.

Johnny: The museum is keeping farm history alive so people will know where their food comes from. It also preserves the equipment that was used by our ancestors to farm.

8. If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go? Why?

Rawleigh: Australia. Because I always wanted to see what the far side of the world looks like!!

Johnny: Alaska

9. If you could have lunch with anyone who would it be? Why?

Rawleigh: My Dad. Because he was the greatest man I have ever known, and I miss him!

Johnny: Bill Wright. He could look ahead and see what was coming in the business. He was at Wood Preservers, Inc.

10. What is a date on your calendar that you are looking forward to? Why?

Rawleigh: November 29. It is the six month birthday of my daughter.

Johnny: Retirement - but I don't think that will ever happen.

11. What is your favorite food to cook?

Rawleigh: Nestlé's Toll House Cookies!!

Johnny: I cook breakfast food, hot dogs, and grilled cheese sandwiches.

12. What is your favorite meal?

Rawleigh: Filet mignon and shrimp!

Johnny: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, rolls and cheese cake with cherries.

13. Who is your hero? Why?

Rawleigh: My wife, for having the nerve to marry me!

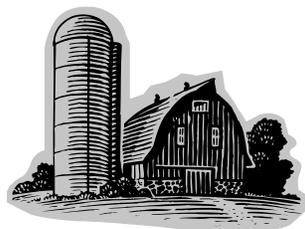
Johnny: My father - Francis Jones

MUSEUM APPROVED FOR CISTERN GRANT

The Northern Neck Farm Museum has been looking for financial assistance for the last 4 years for the purchase and installation of a rainfall collection system (cistern) in order to have water for irrigation of garden and crop demonstration plots on the Museum site. A number of applications have been submitted and always ended with a rejection letter. We are excited to report that the most recent request has been approved and accepted by the Museum Board of Directors at their meeting on September 18, 2012. USDA Rural Development, Richmond office, has offered an equipment grant of \$5,400 with cash match from the Museum of \$1,800 for purchase of equipment and supplies to make our cistern goal a reality. Items needed would include a collection tank in the 1,500 to 2,000 gallon range, pipe and connection supplies to hook the tank to downspouts, pump and electrical components, and distribution lines to get the water to the garden site. A cistern committee has been formed to come up with a proper design and equipment list which will be put out to suppliers for quotes. Installation and construction processes are the responsibility of the Farm Museum, and we have solicited a number of volunteers to assist with this so the cost will be minimal. The Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District has been assisting with grant paperwork and general oversight of the design and installation process.

The Northern Neck Master Gardener Association has been managing a vegetable teaching garden on site for the last three seasons, teaching local youth valuable food production and environmental skills and providing fresh vegetables to a local food bank. Irrigation water is essential for good production and for a good teaching experience, and it has been a continuing challenge to bring water from off site to keep the garden healthy. The cistern should also be a good demonstration of rainfall harvesting that can be shared with homeowners and farm producers to enhance storm water management promotion and programs. When more storm water is collected, utilized and infiltrated into the soil, there is less runoff to cause potential problems downstream. We currently have downspouts on just the west side of the "Barn" exhibit hall which represents approximately 3,300 square feet of roof area. A one inch rainfall collected from this roof area would generate 2,000 gallons of water.

The Board extends thanks to USDA Rural Development for their interest and assistance with our rainfall collection project. We will be contacting the community for help when installation begins.



**NORTHERN
NECK FARM
MUSEUM**

Northern Neck Farm Museum
12705 Northumberland Highway
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Heathsville, VA 22473
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

Newsletter printed by The Northern Neck
Planning District Commission

Hours of Operation:

**The Museum will be 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.**

**~ 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 email at:

NNFarmMuseum@gmail.com

All proceeds go to support The Farm Museum.



Allis Chalmers D-15 Hi-Crop Tractor

FARM TO FOLK SPRING DINNER

The tradition continues, with our most popular event, our Farm to Fork Dinners. The Spring dinner will take place on Saturday, May 18. The dinner highlights local farm raised ingredients cooked by a local chef on site and served in the field beside the museum. Appetizers begin at 5:00pm with a spectacular dinner to follow. Tickets are by reservation only and are \$50.00 person. For more information call (804)450-8182 or (804) 761-5952.