

LAKE METROPARKS

FARM PARK

Amma



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FARMPARK IS A LAKE METROPARKS FACILITY.

Farmpark’s mission is to help our urban society understand how farmers raise food, fiber and other products that sustain and enhance human life. *Farmpark Almanac* is published three times a year by Lake Metroparks. This publication is sent free to Farmpark members.

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Reflecting on the Past Year & Planning for the Future

by Lee Homyock, *Farmpark Administrator*

In 2021, Lake Metroparks Farmpark welcomed more than 155,000 visitors to special events and programs. We hope to welcome more this year as we continue to navigate the pandemic. We hope you will take the time to visit us this year!

With some of our special events canceled early last year, Farmpark staff directed available time and resources to making improvements in the Well Bred Shed, the Barnyard, the Grain Place, the Hilltop and the Machinery Building. We also debuted renovated garden areas as part of a new partnership with All America Selections. Our limited reopening in March allowed us to kick off Maple Sugaring Weekends and we quickly expanded it from two to four weekends. By May, we largely resumed facility rentals, programs, and most of our late spring and summer special events. In June, summer camps were back to full capacity. Vintage Ohio returned, while The Village Peddler Festival made the difficult decision to cancel the event permanently. Farmpark debuted a new event, Sunflower Harvest Weekend, which was very successful and will return in 2022. Halloween Drive-thru and Country Lights Drive-thru continued to run in the successful drive-thru model as it served more people than our traditional event models and required far less staffing to execute. We also offered a modified Breakfast and Lunch with Santa program in 2021.

In 2022, we expect to be able to provide facility rentals, programs, and special events throughout the year. We will host the Spring Showdown Lamb Show for the second year in a row and take over hosting duties for the Historical Engine Society’s Antique Power Exhibition.

J&J Café has permanently closed and we will evaluate the future use of that space. Refreshments can be purchased in the Gift Shop and we will increase the number of food vendors at special events. Visitors can also bring in their own food to picnic in the shelters, on tables throughout the park, or in the Visitor Center Atrium.

We look forward to seeing you this year!



We look forward to seeing you for events like Sunflower Harvest Weekend and programs like Spud Night (above). PHOTOS BY MICHELLE ROMEO



LAKE METROPARKS FARMPARK

2022 Special Events

Fun Time on the Farm Indoor Play Area January 22 through March 13

Ice Festival* January 29

Farmer Monday February 21

Maple Sugaring Weekends March 5 & 6, 12 & 13

Maple Sugaring Pairing Dinner*‡ March 11

Quilts 2022 April 1 through May 1

Breakfast with the Bunny*‡ April 9 & 10, 15 & 16

Shearing Weekend Pairing Dinner*‡ May 13

Shearing Weekend May 14 & 15

HorseFest May 21 & 22

The Spring Showdown Lamb Show May 29

Railroads in the Park June 4 & 5

FarmFest: Ribs, Brew & Music* July 9 *FREE admission*

Historical Engine Society Antique Power Exhibition July 29, 30 & 31

Vintage Ohio Wine Festival*‡ August 5 & 6

Sunflower Harvest Weekend August 20 & 21

Honey BBQ Pairing Dinner*‡ August 26

Milk & Honey Weekend August 27 & 28

Corn Maze September 1 through October 16

Senior Day September 15

Horsepower Weekend September 24 & 25

Apple Harvest Pairing Dinner*‡ September 30

Apple Butter & Cider Weekend October 1 & 2

Corn & Pumpkin Weekends October 8 & 9, 15 & 16

Halloween Drive-thru*‡ October TBD

Country Lights*‡ TBD

Breakfast or Lunch with Santa*‡ TBD

Visit goto.lakemetroparks.com/farmpark-events for details.

**Special hours and/or rates apply.*

‡ Tickets must be purchased in advance.



Farmpark CALENDAR

1 JANUARY

2 Lake County FREE DAY

18 Lake County FREE DAY

FUN TIME ON THE FARM INDOOR PLAY AREA

January 22 through March 13, 9 am to 5 pm

Don't let the winter blues get you down!! Bring your little farmers to the farm-themed indoor playground at Farmpark! Watch newborn spring lambs, learn about plant life and learn about what happens in the winter on the farm!

ICE FESTIVAL

Presented by Ganley Subaru East

January 29 9 am to 7 pm



Shake the winter blues that fall upon Ohioans every January. Come witness some of the best ice carvers from around the country take part in carving demonstrations, a speed carving competition and a woodcarver vs. ice carver competition. Come get photos with your family and friends on our full-sized ice chair, then sit by one of our fire pits and warm up with hot cocoa and s'mores (additional charge). The night will end with a battle between fire and ice! Plus, many other winter-themed family fun activities. Farmpark admission applies.

2 FEBRUARY

6 Lake County FREE DAY

15 Lake County FREE DAY

FARMER MONDAY

February 21

Enjoy a special day at Farmpark on Presidents' Day with fun for the whole family! Find out what a farmer does during the winter months through hands-on activities and games. See lambs display their acrobatics in the Arena. Bring your little farmers out for fun family farm experiences! No registration required.





Farmpark is open year-round Tuesday through Sunday, 9 am to 5 pm.
Open Monday, February 21 Presidents' Day

Regular Farmpark admission is waived for Lake County residents on
"FREE DAY" (Proof of Lake County residency required).
Every day is "Free Day" for Lake Metroparks Farmpark members.

For more information about Farmpark programs and events:
440-256-2122 • 800-366-3276 • lakemetroparks.com

3 MARCH

4 APRIL

MAPLE SUGARING WEEKENDS

March 5 & 6, 12 & 13

Witness the maple-producing process as sap is collected from our network of tubing and 1,000 taps! After collection, watch as the sap is boiled and turned into maple syrup and candy. Discover how trees are tapped and see the tubing that connects the taps. Help gather sap and learn how to make maple syrup in your own backyard! Farmpark's own maple syrup and candy will be available for sale.

6 Lake County FREE DAY

MAPLE SUGARING PAIRING DINNER

March 11, 5:30 to 9 pm

Celebrate the signs of spring and sap flowing in the maple trees by joining us for an evening of good wine, food, and maple sugaring. Take a tour of the sugar bush and learn how maple syrup is made on both the professional and backyard levels from a Farmpark maple sugaring specialist. Then, enjoy a delicious meal with wine pairing by a local vineyard. The maple-themed menu includes mixed greens, glazed chicken and vegetables followed by a delicious dessert. The chef and winemaker will be on hand to discuss the themed recipes and wine pairings. Vegetarian option available. \$60 per adult 21 and older, pre-registration required at lakemetroparks.com or 440-358-7275.

15 Lake County FREE DAY

Get Involved! For details on sponsorships, visit goto.lakemetroparks.com/donate

BACK A BREED

Become a barnyard parent by supporting the animal of your choice through the Back a Breed program. Three levels of sponsorship are available, starting at \$25. Your sponsorship goes toward food and care of the animals. A portion of all donations is tax deductible.

Requested Programs

DRAFT HORSE DRIVER TRAINING

Ages 18 and older, Fee: \$20 for two hours
Learn to drive a team of draft horses with one-on-one instruction. Additional lessons are available after initial session. Call Johnathan Squibbs at 440-256-2122 x3141 to schedule training.

QUILTS 2022

NEW Spring dates!

April 1 through May 1

Farmpark presents one of Ohio's finest quilt shows with up to 200 quilts and quilt-related works on display. Includes a judged show of quilts completed by regional artists from Northeast Ohio and neighboring states. Show visitors can vote for the People's Choice award, to be announced by April 27. Quilt workshops offered with pre-registration.



3 Lake County FREE DAY

BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

April 9 & 10, 15 & 16

Bunny visits children in the café. After breakfast take a photo with Bunny in his arbor. Visit lambs in the Well Bred Shed (photo opportunity). Registration for Lake County residents and Farmpark members begins March 2 at 8 am. Open registration begins March 3. Farmpark membership must be current as of noon on Friday, February 25 and remain current on the day of purchase. \$16 for ages 12 and older. \$13 ages 2 to 11, \$5 younger than 2.

19 Lake County FREE DAY

QUILT VENDOR DAYS

April 29, 30 & May 1

A three-day shopping event of local quilt shop vendors intermingled in the quilt show! Demonstrations on the latest tools and techniques will be offered. A fun weekend to end the quilt show!



A New Look at Raised Bed Gardens

by Valerie F. Reinhardt, *Horticulture Manager*

Raised beds are great for people with less-than-favorable growing conditions including poor soil or off-putting locations. They can also provide better drainage, prime soil and flexibility to build or place them in locations where you can't till the earth. Garden maintenance is also much easier. A raised garden bed can simply be mounded soil or a contained bed of soil above the surrounding grade. The goal is to create a deep, wide growing area that encourages root growth and drainage. Raised beds alleviate issues with heavy clay or sandy nutrient-poor soils and are perfect for homes surrounded by concrete.

Raised beds need a location that gets plenty of sunshine (at least six or more hours of full sun per day). But what happens when your growing space is limited and sometimes the only good sunny location is on a patio? That's where creative thinking comes in.

Pots and decorative containers make attractive additions to the landscape. If you are interested in growing a plentiful supply of vegetables, small pots can limit gardening abilities. They dry out too quickly to support "water hogs" like tomatoes and some plants can become rootbound, which dwarfs their potential. One way to create the perfect size for your space is to build one. A major issue when building a free-standing raised bed is having the time and skill required. In recent years, waist-high garden planters that make patio gardening more accessible have come on the market. Some even come on wheels that make them easy to move and store away over the winter. These options can be expensive though.



An easy do-it-yourself way to create large planters/raised beds is to use galvanized stock tanks.

These tanks come in various sizes from 70 to 300 gallons and can be mounted on wheels to make them more mobile. These tanks are deep and can use up a great deal of soil mixture that can add weight and expense but no added growing advantage. To combat this, try filling the bottom half of the tank with inert material like scrap Styrofoam blocks or inverted plastic pots to take up unnecessary volume leaving plenty of soil depth for healthy plant growth. Tanks come with a drain and plug, but you will need to drill a few extra holes for better drainage. It is also a good idea to raise tanks off the ground to allow the holes to drain—it's easy to do using boards, bricks or wheels.

For added garden charm, you can also use galvanized tubs from bucket to bushel sized as coordinated planters to give your garden chic country appeal. For more information or ideas on raised beds and gardening, visit the Plant Science Center at Lake Metroparks Farmpark.



Agricultural supply chain hardships

The shortages we have experienced demonstrate the outcome when just one or multiple components of this complex web break.

by Steve Ohmes, Assistant Farmpark Administrator

The mission of Lake Metroparks Farmpark is to “provide a connection to our agricultural roots, helping people understand where our food and fiber come from.” The park does this in a fun and entertaining format, but agriculture isn’t always fun. The hard lesson we have learned throughout the pandemic is that our food chain is very complex and fragile. From the producers who raise our food to the processors that turn raw commodities into usable products and the distributors who get the products onto our shelves in the grocery store, there are a lot of moving parts. The shortages we have experienced demonstrate the outcome when one or multiple components of this complex web break.

While the milk coolers in the grocery store were empty, images of farmers dumping milk onto the ground were shown in the media. And we think to ourselves, why is there no milk in the store, but dairy producers have no place to ship the milk? One reason is processing equipment. Before the shutdown, schools around the country were serving milk to school children in the small milk cartons most of us are familiar with. Once the schools shut down for distance learning, the individuals who consumed milk in the small cartons were drinking from the plastic jugs at home. This created a surge in demand for the larger jugs. With the larger demand for the jugs, the machines that filled the larger jugs could not keep up while the machines that filled the small containers sat idle. More milk was produced than could be bottled in the larger containers, which caused the surplus.

The same scenario applied to livestock producers. With the large processing facilities shutting down due to illness, there was no place to send the livestock, which in turn caused the shelves to be empty at the grocery store.

Packaging also plays an issue. When a company can only get limited supplies of plastics and aluminum, it limits the ability to get that product to market. We experienced the shortage of



aluminum to our soft drink companies. With the limited aluminum to make cans, companies were forced to stop making selected products to enable them to get the more popular products to stores.

Last, but most important is labor. Businesses across the country have experienced labor shortages. Without skilled people to produce, process, and distribute food, it is difficult to get the products into stores. With this workforce shortage, companies are forced to slow production thereby limiting the volume of product they can produce.

These are just a few examples of how delicate our food system can be. One positive outcome of this past year is individuals buying meat and produce locally from smaller producers. Buying local lessens our dependence on larger food companies and supports small family farms. Individuals can also grow food in their backyards, no matter how small. We need to always keep in mind what M. S. Swaminathan said, “If agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have a chance to go right.”



Affected by supply chain difficulties recently? Try buying from local farmers and artisans or grow food in your own backyard. Learn more at Farmpark!





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FARMPARK Gift Shop

unique country gifts

Take home a little bit of the country.

440-256-2122 x3161

No admission charge to visit gift shop, excludes most special events.
 VISA, MasterCard and Discover accepted • Discount for Farmpark members

Take home charming country gifts, unique items for the home and garden, greeting cards, Naked Bee lotion, Dionis goat milk products, Farmpark's own maple syrup as well as assorted snacks and drinks.

