

Ashland County Farm Bureau Offers Drive It Yourself Farm Tour 2007

By Joyce L. Ritchie

The Ashland County Farm Bureau is pleased to offer their 2007 Ashland County Drive-It-Yourself Farm Tour over the last weekend of September. The tour this year will feature the northern area of the county and will include ten stops in three of the townships.

Tour coordinator Jim Burnhard urges all to participate and discover the diversity in the region. He shares the tour is planned with safety in mind and asks participants to follow the directional course of the stops.

Each participating stop on the tour is pleased to share their operations and only asks that tour participants honor the land and the livestock that is housed there upon. The farms are a primary source of each participant's livelihood and passion and strive for the best care of that in their stewardship.

Cliff's Greenhouse and Garden Center will serve as the first stop of the tour. Located at 323 State Route 60 just south of Ruggles, they will showcase their "Wizard of Oz Garden" along with the center's passion.

The Ashland County Park District's Pine Hill Park, located at the intersection US 224 and Township Road 1601 will offer the Crall Woods hiking areas of the National Natural Landmark on the south as stop two on the tour. It is anticipated the northern portion of the park, Saurers Farm, will be open for stop three. If so, the Park District will offer a historical look into agriculture with a focus on apple production showcasing their antique cider press.

Finnish Farm - Huacaya Alpacas at 1486 Township Road 126 just north and east of Pine Hill in Ruggles Township will serve as stop four.

A swing around the roadways will bring the tour participants to stop five, Galloway Farms at 1183 US 224. Bret Galloway offers from "Farm to Buyer" beef cattle. He offers young feeders, mid-ranged stockers and

finished beef from his operation.

Just down the road and a wee bit south will be stop 6, Silver Spur Stables, a boarding and training facility for horses at 337 County Road 1171. Echo Point Farm at 1219 Township Road 346 and not far away is stop seven, which will showcase their Pygmy Goats.

Rohr's Lake will showcase their production operation that includes beef cattle, hay, a paylake, camping and live fish sold for stocking located at 1100 Township Road 346 as stop eight.

Falling Star Farm's Dairy will be featured as stop nine. It is located at 626 St Rt 89 in Orange Township and owned by the Dewey Meyer Family.

RQH Performance Horses will serve as the stop ten on the tour. The business is located at 606 County Road 801 and just north of the Mapleton Schools.

Tour hours on Saturday, September 29 are from 10:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

and on Sunday, September 30, from 12:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Participants can expect to find tour maps at each location and the possibility of food stands and featured organizations offering agricultural related information. Participants may start at any stop, but are reminded to travel with the flow of traffic for their own safety.

Information on this and other Ashland Farm Bureau events may be accessed by calling 330-263-7456.