



Change Is On the Horizon

It's been a whirl wind two years and now we're coming to the end of all our hard work and realizing our dream of owning Alasa Farms!

But there's hardly a second to celebrate because now the hard work begins! We now have a laundry list of repairs and improvements to do on the farm, programs to develop, new partnerships to iron out while still maintaining the shelter and its costs. All this and hay season too!

In the true spirit of Cracker Box Palace, we'll be facing our work load with excitement and enthusiasm to add to the farm and take care of the animals. You may visit the farm and find yourself walking around an area yellow taped off for construction or a 'pardon our dust' sign, but know that we are all working hard to get the farm up and running so that it may sustain itself in the future. We're already seeing it on the weekends with something going on at every corner of the farm!

Thank you to all that have helped us reach our goals. Welcome to all the new members, volunteers and partners that are coming on board to help us to reach for our dreams and thank you to all that have stuck by us through the blood, sweat and tears to get us where we are today. Many have come and gone through the years of Cracker Box Palace and left us with memories and knowledge, all adding to the history of the farm and shelter. Thank you all for everything you have done.

Our deepest wishes and our way of showing our appreciation to our community and gratitude for all everyone has done for us will be to continue to take care of the animals in need, grow the shelter and preserve Alasa Farms for the community and future generations. We hope to make you all proud!

Thank you!

The Board, Staff, Volunteers and Critters of
Cracker Box Palace

The Amazing LEAP kids!



Maryanne Whyte and the kids from LEAP (Lyons Enrichment After-school Program) hosted Story Book Tours April 30th! The LEAP kids come throughout the year on regular basis and help around the farm while learning about farm animals.

Hillside Children's Center-Varick Campus Helps with Farm Clean Up!



(photo courtesy Will Duncan)

These kids were a amazing! This was their first visit the farm and they were assigned Second Creek clean up and they did a great job! We'll be seeing more of them in the future too as they have planned four more work days here on the farm scheduled through the end of the school year! Thanks for all the help!!

Many new changes and improvements on the old ways we did things are now our new challenge. And we are enjoying the new challenges immensely!

Some of the changes will include this newsletter. Our old friend, Alice Irwin, has retired from the farm and passed the torch to us to bring all our correspondence, newsletter and media relations to the farm. Her husband Ethan Irwin, who served for many years as our board treasurer, has also decided to retire. Thank you both for your tireless service to Cracker Box Palace. We will be forever grateful. We hope you enjoy your much needed and well earned rest!

All of our office duties are now located here on the farm. The work load of the office is now being divided and shared among the volunteers. The newsletter, as well as the other office duties and everything else we have here on the farm will be offered as educational tools. We already have two youth organizations that want to be the 'newsletter editor' for the next two newsletters! The kids will be handling everything from the interviews, attending events, photography to layout and production of the newsletter along with the folding, addressing and mailing! Let us know if you have a group of enthusiastic young folk that would like to run the newsletter for a quarter!

Margaret Hyman, Cracker Box Board Secretary, has taken on the task of organizing the office. Margaret and her family adopted Rocky and Apples, two paint horses. Phyllis Lent and Celia Knight - Book keeping. Phyllis is a LONG time adoptee of Cole, an appaloosa that we had back at the old farm! Barb DeRoo and Mary Novak - Correspondence. Mary came to us via a donkey name "Merribelle" and Barb had adopted a guinea pig from us back a few years ago and has recently adopted a rabbit! And Renee Steves, - general office duties. We hope to have the office up and running on a regular schedule soon! Thank you!



Our good friend and neighbor, Maryanne Whyte will be running Farm Camp again this

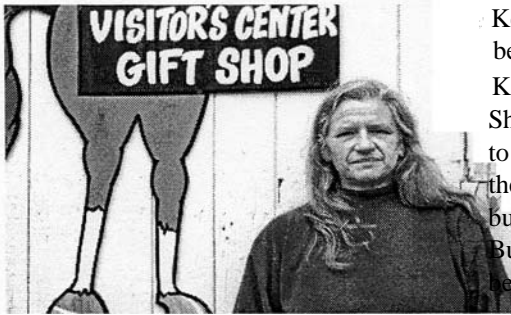
summer the week of July 11 and August 1. The LEAP kids are another one of Maryanne's project and visit the farm often. They are currently working on priming and painting the classroom chairs with farm scenes and animals! LEAP has also received a grant to upgrade the Cow Barn's new classroom area, build a handicapped accessible hay wagon and improve our camp site out back, adding new smaller campsites and picnic tables for the site this summer!

Mary Novick, or who we like to call "Merribelle's Mom" also put CBP in for a grant through Xerox for a new bunny run built off the Ice House and sharing Stormy's pasture out front! Rick and Sharon Vanhoute along with help from the WFL BOCES kids, will be building that this summer! Our rabbits will be in their glory and all of them will be able to enjoy the outside sun and fresh breezes! Mary and Barb DeRoo are pictured to the right at our Farm Clean Up event which they both organized and directed! Thanks Mary and Barb!!!



The Large Animal Response Team is now under new management too. Bob Hyman has taken the reins as "Fearless Leader" of the group. The LART team's goal this summer is to raise enough money for their new Rescue Trailer. They have already received a grant through ASPCA for \$4800 of the bill and have sold their old trailer for \$2500. They will also be holding a trail ride this fall; selling refreshments at Music Fest and Animal Faire this year along with offering ad space on the trailer to businesses and sponsors to raise the needed funds for the new emergency trailer. A rescue training has been planned for July 23 - 24 with Days End Horse Rescue from Maryland again. And by the way, Margaret Hyman, mentioned above, is Bob's better half!

The Cow Barn has handicapped accessible ramps to it now! And a fully functional floor inside! Thank you to the Mangan family for the assist on the needed repairs to that!



(photo by Will Duncan)

Kelly Friedel has taken over the Gift Shop and Visitor's Center duties and will be managing both at the first floor of the West Barn. And it's beautiful! Kelly hopes to have the gift shop open on a regular schedule this summer. She is welcoming help in the shop too! Contact our Volunteer Coordinator to help out there! Kelly, and Gus, her husband have been an amazing help to the farm's construction projects along with their friend Marv Fanin as they've built the new gift shop, the bathroom at the Cow Barn, fixed the porch on the Bunk House, have helped us with electric and wiring dilemmas and now will be helping us wire in the new farm laundry room!

Our Bunk House is on its way to housing interns, instructors, visitors to the farm and volunteer vacations! The Bunk House will offer 8 bedrooms, a meeting living room and a huge dining area to all that stay and work on the farm! It also will have a laundry area and buggy and cart storage area down stairs! We are all very excited about this addition!



Kritter Kris (Kris Foresythe) has taken on the Volunteer Coordinating Responsibilities and we've seen our volunteer participation increase! She's an amazing woman as she has her own Wild Life Rehabilitation group, Kritter Kris and Feathered Friends, and helps us out here at the farm and on our board of directors! If you'd like to attend a volunteer orientation you should contact Kris at krittrkris@yahoo. Orientations are held the second Saturday of every month 9am till noon.

And there are many more irons in the fire and things going on at the farm lately!

Trails are being mapped out and should be under construction this summer to go all the way around the perimeter of the farm! That's almost 6 miles of trails!

Plans are underway for a Historic Structures Report to be done on four of the buildings here on the farm including the Main House.

As soon as the ground is dry enough to run the rototiller we'll be ready to put in the Community Garden on the west side of the farm. Groups have already volunteered to help with that!

We are also putting in two new hay fields on the north end of the farm! Hay season is just around the corner and we've set our goals high this year to go for 8000 bales of hay and 200 round bales! Let's hope Mother Nature helps us out there with the weather!

The volunteers are working on the pool so they can get a quick dip after a hard days work on the farm and the barns are in the 'works' to be painted this summer!

Everything has been very exciting and we

Thank you all for all the help!



h hope to achieve all our goals for the summer!

Hope to see you this summer!

-SEED MONEY-

Help Us Grow Our Farm!

In early 2011, Cracker Box Palace achieved ownership of Alasa Farms, the historic Shaker Farm that it has leased for the past several years. This was an amazing feat in its own right, with help coming from what seemed to be all over New York and the U.S.! Now the staff and volunteers of Cracker Box Palace are looking forward to the 'hard work' and have set some lofty goals again to 'grow our farm' and start working on the vision first conceived when working on the business plan for the future to make Cracker Box Palace and Alasa Farms a self sustaining entity that would continue to serve its community with much broader services.

With this in mind, the Cracker Box Palace fundraising volunteers have come up with a new fundraiser called "Seed Money" to invite over 2000 people to consider making a donation of \$20.11 to help grow the farm and produce a wonderful new harvest of improvements, programs and more services here at Cracker Box Palace.

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 by this fall to put in our 'Seeds' needed to sow and grow the future programs and improvements

- Youth Program Development
- Animal Service Expansion and Training, including adding a few more stalls for the horses, pens and additional space for the other farm animals and training for our animal service folk and Large Animal Response Team members.
- Fencing and Barn Repair
- Building Restoration including painting our barns
- Trail and Camp Site Development
- Community Garden Project
- Animal Assisted Therapy Program
- Endowment Fund
- Staff Development creating a regular and trained paid staff on the farm

Donation information: Please make donations payable to:
Cracker Box Palace - Seed Money!
PO Box 174, Alton, NY 14413

Or payments can be made on our web site at www.crackerboxpalace.org Cracker Box Palace is a registered 501 ©3 not for profit organization and tax deduction receipts may be requested.

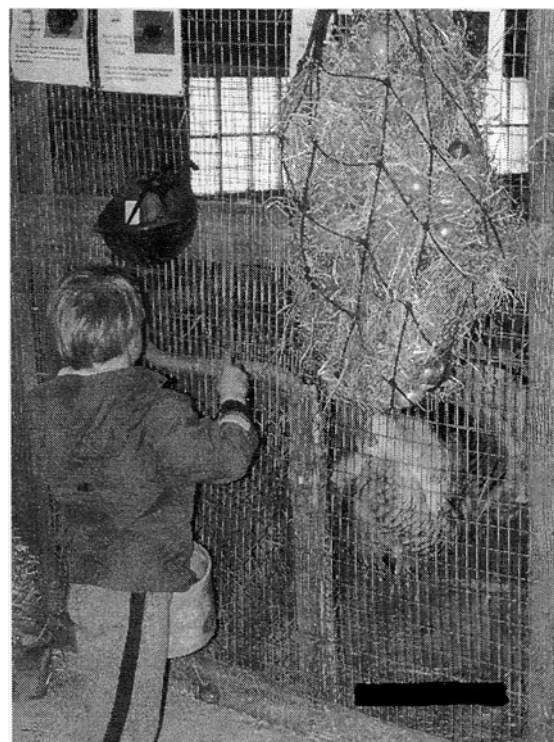
As always, thank ewe to all that have supported our endeavors in the past and hope to continue to make you all proud of the work we provide here at the farm and shelter in the future.

Easter Egg Hunt! In the Barn?



April 16th was a cold, windy, rainy day to have an Easter Egg Hunt, but we here at CBP and apparently the Easter Bunny do NOT stop because of the weather! Jody, Elaine, Cheri, Celia, Barb and Keli just moved the hunt in the Cow Barn! There were hiding holes in the hay, hay nets, saddles, baskets, barrels and just about anywhere one could stuff an egg! Kids and parents came in the barn with a confused, wet look when they entered but were greeted by the volunteers that were here that day to help direct the hunt.

Snuggles the Turkey even got his own egg!



THANK EWE all that donated prizes and candy for the eggs including Reliant Federal Credit Union and to all the Easter Bunny helpers that helped stuff all the eggs before the hunt! And to all the volunteers that braved the weather to help with the hunt – THANK EWE!!!

Memorials -

Porky - our older pot belly pig's legs finally gave in to his arthritis. We'll miss his grunts and snoring from the pen.

KK - a boer cross goat that came to us from a cruelty case back in 2004 passed suddenly in April.

Helen - a dutch rabbit that also from the case KK came to us in, passed from a respiratory illness.

Sysco - Jody's pal rabbit and office friend.

And one of our biggest heart breakers was the passing of Alvah, the baby goat we brought home in a box with Asa. Both were sick when they came to us, but pulled through that and were both strong and active babies. But the vet can only speculate that coming from unknown sources, where the mother was probably not inoculated for any diseases, he was passed down with enterotoxaemia, a deadly disease in goats. We tried all kinds of treatments, but he passed very quickly, leaving Asa alone. Thank you Clover Meadow Goat Dairy for supplying us with two new kids, Joe and Ken, to be Asa's friends to grow up with. We are currently keeping a close eye on Asa for any signs of the illness that took his brother. He has also been inoculated for the illness, even though early, to hopefully prevent him from coming down with the same thing.

The Lyrics from Phil Collins – You'll Be In My Heart

*Come stop your crying it'll be alright
Just take my hand. Hold on tight.*

*I will protect you. From all around you. I will be here.
Don't you cry.*

*For one so small, You seem so strong.
My arms will hold you. Keep you safe and warm.
This bond between us can't be broken. I will be here.
Don't you cry.*

*[Chorus] 'Cause you'll be in my heart. Yes, you'll be in my heart
From this day on, now and forever more. You'll be in my heart.
No matter what they say. You'll be in here in my heart, always.
Why can't they understand the way we feel?
They just don't trust what they can't explain I know we're
different
But, deep inside us, we're not that different at all*

*Don't listen to them 'Cause what do they know?
We need each other to have and hold.
They'll see in time, I know.*

*When destiny calls you, you must be strong
I may not be with you. But you've got to hold on.
They'll see in time. I know. We'll show them together.*

*Oh, you'll be in my heart. (Oh, you'll be in my heart)
No matter what they say (I'll be with you)
You'll be here in my heart, I'll be there always.
Always.*

*I'll be with you I'll be there for you always.
Always and always.
Just look over your shoulder.
Just look over your shoulder.
Just look over your shoulder.
I'll be there always.*



One of our favorite pictures of Porky wearing his finest hay hats.



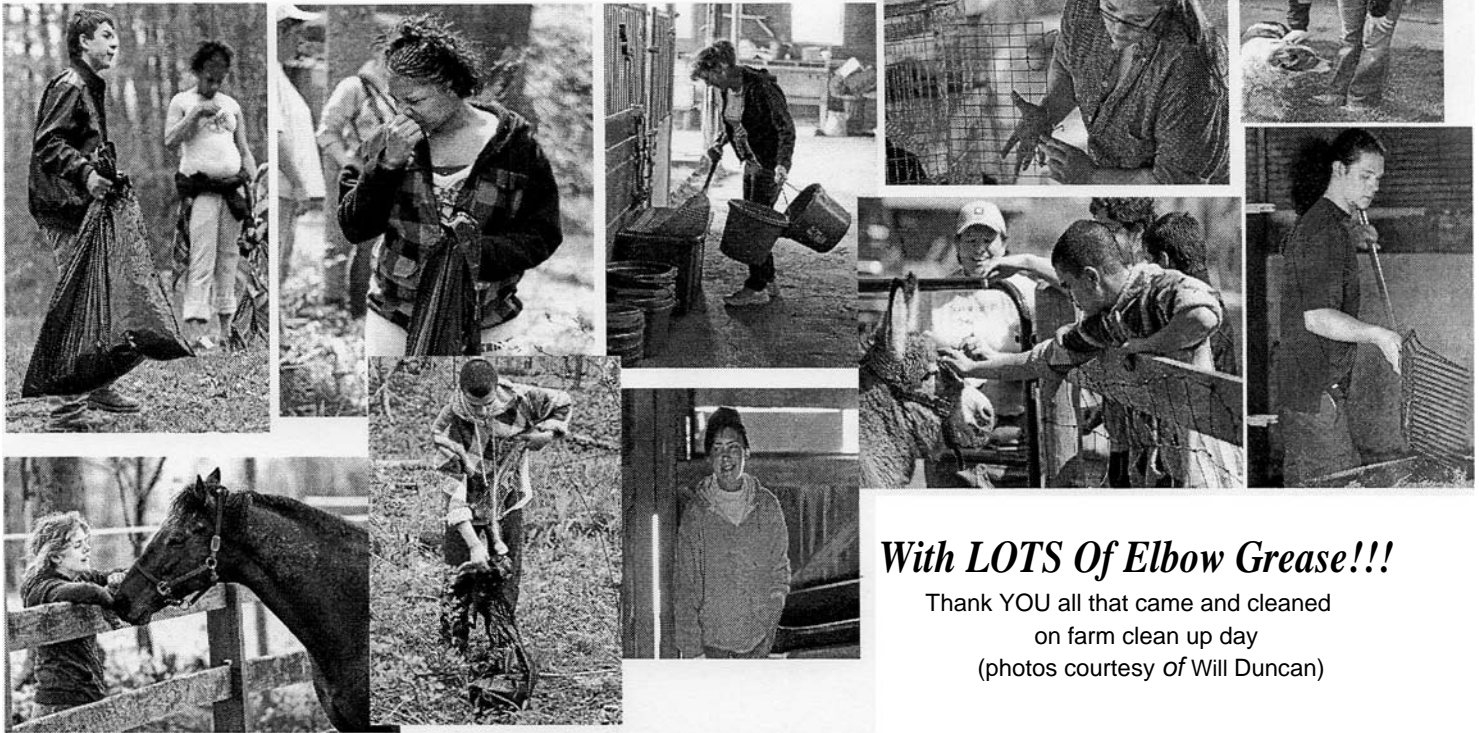
Little Alvah - Rest in peace.

Thank You's

- Landmark Stables for giving our Lizzy a shot at the 'big time'.
- Ed and Debbie Prichard for the help with Little Dannie the Donkey's first feet trims!
- Our new Event Committee! You all have been a wonderful team!
- Brad Whittaker for his continued service of hoof trimming, shoeing and 'fix its' on our horse's feet!
- Pine Creek Feed Store for all you do for us in the feed n needs department!
Ed and Debbie Eaton (and Kaye) for the continued service of delivering our shavings and for the donated loads!
- Ledgewood Equine Clinic, Paradise Large Animal Veterinary Practice, Lyons Vet Clinic and Walworth Animal Hospital for their wonderful medical care of our critters!
- Wayne County Department of Probation and Corrections for all the help you send our way!
- Wayne County ARC for your continued help here at the farm!
- Wayne County Planning Department for all your incredible help with us purchasing the farm and your continued help with preserving its history!
- Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES for the beautiful job you've all done on rehabbing our rabbit cages! They look great!
- Lyons Enrichment After School Program (LEAP) for all your wonderful projects here at the farm! We're all looking forward to your program this summer!
- Genesee Land Trust for the help and advice on the trails and forestry projects. Looking forward to an active and interesting summer!
- Janet and Bob Smith for bringing out School #22 Lincoln School from Rochester. The kids were a lot of fun!
- Hillside Children's Center - Varick Campus. We're looking forward to the summer programs this year!
- Thanks to everyone that helped clean up the farm for Farm Clean Up Day! It looks great!
- Wayne County Business Council for featuring Cracker Box Palace in your newsletter for June/July
- Paige Equipment for the use of the tractor to pull our float in the Apple Blossom Parade!

THANK EWE!!!!

How To Clean Up A Very Large Farm?



With LOTS Of Elbow Grease!!!

Thank YOU all that came and cleaned
on farm clean up day
(photos courtesy of Will Duncan)

ASPCA Grant Received!

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals approved Cracker Box Palace for a \$4800 grant towards the purchase of the Large Animal Response Team's new Emergency Response Equipment Trailer! The team is looking to purchase a 16' enclosed trailer to store all their emergency equipment, medical and safety gear to improve their response time to emergencies. There is still more money to be raised for the project, including offering ad space to businesses on the sides of the trailer as sponsors, a fund raiser trail ride this fall and the team will be selling refreshments at both Music Fest and Animal Faire this year to help raise the necessary funds. Their goal is to have the all the money in hand by late summer and have the trailer up and running by this fall! Call or email the farm if you would like to help contribute to this worthy project or join the LART team!

Xerox Community Involvement Program and the Xerox Foundation Grant Approved!

Xerox has given us a grant in the past to build Merribelle's "Maternity Pen" and now has approved us for a grant to expand our rabbit's housing. This new area for the rabbits will be located in the Ice House building and Stormy will be sharing part of his pasture to give the rabbits more room to run! Building to start this summer by Rick and Sharon Vanhoute along with the kids from WFL BOCES kids!

THANK EWE!!!!!!!

Join Our Membership List!

And please pass this application on to your friends.

All memberships include a subscription to our quarterly newsletter. ... sign up now and get all the latest news from the farm!

Name _____
 Street _____
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 Zip Code
 Email _____

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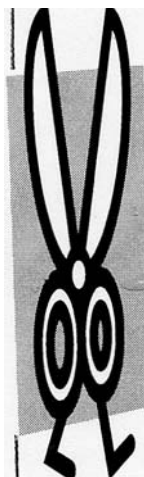
\$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00

Other \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to
Cracker Box Palace
And mail to

PO Box 174
Alton, NY
14413

Your donation is tax deductible!
Or you can sign up on our web site at
www.crackerboxpalace.org



Music Fest 2011 Returns!

Sat, August 20th Gates open at Noon!

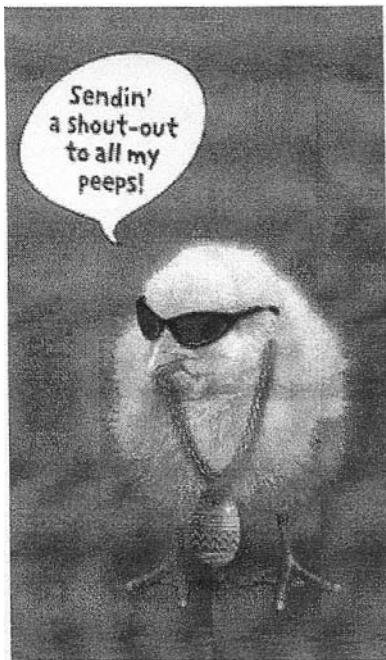
Come Jam with the Animals Till the Cows Come Home!
Bring a picnic. enjoy the food vendors at the farm.
Bring lawn chairs or blankets and get ready for an
Afternoon of really cool mooooo-sic here at
Cracker Box Palace at Alasa Farms
6450 Shaker Rd. Alton NY!

Returning this year Wells Hollow!
New Bands and performers coming so far. ..

Jeremy Stevens, singer/song writer
Ukuclear Waste, an all ukulele band!

And there's more surprises coming up everyday!

Check our web site to catch the latest news on Music Fest @ www.crackerboxpalace.org



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Let us know if you would like to become a newsletter sponsor or if you would like to sponsor an animal, an event, stall, building or have a sign on our new LART trailer! All proceeds go to help us run the farm on a daily basis keeping our critters healthy and happy! Email at crackerbpalace@netzero.net

CRACKER BOX PALACE - LARGE ANIMAL SHELTER AT ALASA FARMS
A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION HELPING ANIMALS IN NEED.
PO Box 174 6450 SHAKER RD. ALTON, NY 14413
WWW.CRACKERBOXPALACE.ORG

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Visit the Farm!

Mail to our Valued Member at:

Summer Hours 10am till 3pm Wed - Sat

For adoptions, admissions, or guided tours email for an appointment crackerbpalace@netzero.net or call 315-483-2493.

Or come any time, pick up a self guided tour map at the barns!

Check our web site for tour itineraries for group tours and events and seminars going on at the farm on a regular basis!

If you have an animal emergency call 911 or your veterinarian!

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Robert Madison, Board President



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 11 - Number 2 - June 2011

Upcoming Events - Check our web for details

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| July 4th Weekend
July 10 | The Gift Shop will be open 10am till 3pm! 10% off ALL sales, big and small!
Tuxedo's K-9 Training Camp will be returning to the farm offering Basic Obedience Classes starting July 10, 10am. For information and email contact info@tuxedok9.com .
Farm Camp For the Kids! Our week long programs will run 9am till 1pm |
| July 11-15 &
Aug 1-5 | Mon thru Fri with animal care, environmental studies, creek walks & much more! |
| July 23 & 24- | Large Animal Response Training with Days End Horse Rescue from Maryland!
Space is limited for hands-on training, spectators are welcome! |
| Aug 20 | Music Fest Returns! Come Jam with the Animals! Noon till the Cows Come Home! |
| Sept 17 | Animal Faire! We invite animal shelters and businesses of all kinds to come to the farm, have booths, display their wares and services. Many try-it projects for the kids! |
| Sept 17 - Oct 15 | U-Pick Apples and Fun on the Farm! |
| Oct 1 | Farm Frenzy Walk-a-Thon! This year the walk will be through our own new trails here on the farm! Dust off those hiking boots! We're putting in 6 miles of trails!!! |
| Oct TBA | Fundraiser Trail Ride for the Horses! |
| Nov 6 | Family Pet Portraits with Santa Claus! |
| Feb 2012 | Kim Paquette - Photographer |
| | 7th Annual Gala Ball |
- Watch for us out and about in the community this summer with our float! Did you see them at the Williamson Apple Blossom Parade?
Tractor courtesy of Paige Equipment!

