

LAKE METROPARKS

FARM PARK

Almanac



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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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COVER PHOTO
 Historic Engine Society Antique Power Exhibition

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Bee-Friendly Gardening

Volunteering at Lake Metroparks Farmpark

by Lee Homyock, Farmpark Administrator



MARILYN WHITING



MICHELLE ROMEO

We ♥ our volunteers!

To learn more about volunteering, please contact volunteer@lakemetroparks.com or visit lakemetroparks.com.



AL SUSINSKAS

Each year, Lake Metroparks Farmpark welcomes thousands of visitors to enjoy our facilities, special events, programs, and activities. Staff and volunteers work together to provide top-quality experiences. The success of these efforts can be measured by the smiles worn by our visitors as they leave the facility. Without our volunteers giving of their time, talents, skills, and expertise, the number of choices available would be severely limited.

The opportunities to volunteer with Farmpark are almost unlimited. Whether you're interested in animal care, equine care, special events, gardening, children's programs, summer camps, gift shop, or admissions, we have an opportunity for you! We hope our volunteers develop new skills, make new friends, and have fun. We welcome new and experienced volunteers to the Lake Metroparks Farmpark team!

by Valerie F. Reinhardt, Horticulture Manager

Visitors often ask me **“What can I do to help honeybees?”** One thought is to become a beekeeper, but not everyone has the time, space, or knowledge to become a beekeeper.

If beekeeping seems too involved for you, you can help honeybees by planting a honeybee-friendly garden. Whether you love wildflowers, formal floral gardens, vegetable gardens, or planted containers, all are bee-friendly. There are many trees, shrubs, perennials, vegetables, and annuals that provide the nectar and pollen bees love.

Wildflower gardens are a great way to help honeybees and many other beneficial insects by providing a natural environment for them to thrive. Wildflower gardens can be big or small, but the key is in good preparation to ensure the desired wildflowers can grow. Prepare the area before planting to ensure that undesired weeds do not compete with the wildflowers for nutrients and water. Be sure to plant the right number of seeds for the area you are planting. Too much seed can lead to overcrowding and too little leaves space for competitive weeds to germinate. Use four to six pounds per acre or 60 to 70 seeds per square foot. Till and prep the ground and follow planting directions on when to plant.

Early spring flowering trees and shrubs provide important nectar and pollen sources for honeybees to replenish their stores after winter. Maples, willows, and basswood trees provide an abundance of early nectar and pollen while early flowering witch hazel, forsythia, Korean spice viburnum, Japanese kerria, and flowering quince shrubs brighten landscape and provide food for bees.

Important late summer and fall perennials are extremely important for honeybee survival as well. Joe Pye weed,

goldenrod, and ironweed are the colors of early fall followed by asters, sedums, and chrysanthemums.

Another thing to consider is planting flowers and herbs in your vegetable garden. Sunflowers, marigolds, cosmos, and zinnias add color and attract honeybees. Herbs are also great sources of nectar and pollen for honeybees. Bees favor most flowering herbs from members of the salvia family that include all mints, basil, and oregano to member of the parsley family that include fennel and dill. My favorite bee-attracting herbs are garlic chives, borage, and mountain mint.

Some people spend large amounts of money on herbicides to maintain grass-only lawns, but if you choose to create a bee-friendly lawn, you can embrace dandelions as an important early spring food for bees. Clover, Roman chamomile, wild violets, heal all, and ground ivy are all bee-friendly and can be mowed to keep tidy.

For more idea or information on honeybee-friendly plants, stop by the Plant Science Center.



Farmpark CALENDAR



ROGER LOKAR

Farmpark is open year-round Tuesday through Sunday, 9 am to 5 pm. Closed Mondays (except Presidents' Day), Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas & New Year's 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. Admission during Vintage Ohio and Village Peddler Festival is not included as a membership benefit as special hours and rates apply.

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

5 MAY

7 LAKE COUNTY FREE DAY

Lake County free days are sponsored by
Ken Ganley
SUBARU SUBARU WICKLIFFE

COUNTRY PAIRING DINNER May 19, 5:30 to 9 pm

Presented by Sylvan Learning of Mentor

\$80* per person, pre-registration required at lakemetroparks.com or call 440-358-7275

Guests will take a horse-drawn wagon ride while learning about the history and characteristics of the draft horses pulling the wagon. Enjoy wine while taking a tour of Farmpark's equine stables and learn the history of horse breeds and how they are used on the farm. From there, the evening will continue at the Hilltop. Take in the view while enjoying appetizers. Dinner will consist of braised short ribs with pan sauce accompanied by mashed potatoes and asparagus (seafood and vegetarian options available). Each course will be paired with wine from a local vineyard. Finish the evening with New York-style cheesecake served with pomegranate sauce and fresh whipped cream and final pairing of wine. Casual dress is recommended.

*A refund will be given if the Registration Department is notified by the participant at least five days prior to the dinner. Failure to attend the dinner will be considered a forfeiture of all materials supplied and money paid.

HORSEFEST May 20 & 21

Presented by Ken Ganley Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Fiat Painesville

Experience demonstrations that represent a time when horses were vital to transportation, working livestock and power on the farm. Riders of all ages will compete in an obstacle course and demonstrate the skill and trust between the horse and rider. Visit the mule and donkey pavilion before taking a ride on one of the many wagons being pulled by Farmpark's own horses. Witness how police use horses to control crowds and view games and training presented by the Governor Generals Horse Guards Cavalry Squadron from Canada in Farmpark's new outdoor horse arena. With all the hands-on activities, demonstrations, breeds, and sizes of horses, it may take both days to experience it all!

THE SPRING SHOWDOWN LAMB SHOW May 28

Farmpark will host the Third Annual Spring Showdown Lamb Show. This event features young men and women ages 8 to 18 showing their lambs and commercial ewes. The youth will demonstrate their showing abilities and animal husbandry skills to professional judges. The show is a collaboration between the Lake County Senior Market Livestock Committee, Lake County Farm Bureau and Lake Metroparks.

6 JUNE

RAILROADS IN THE PARK June 3 & 4

Presented by Sylvan Learning of Mentor

Sylvan Learning

The Visitors Center will be filled with operating model train displays N-Scale layouts. Other featured exhibits include G-Scale trains, Lionel O-gauge trains, Lego train layout Farmpark's G-Scale Garden Railroad layout in the Courtyard plus display on agriculture and the railroad.

4 LAKE COUNTY FREE DAY

20 LAKE COUNTY FREE DAY



EARL LINABURG



7 JULY

2 LAKE COUNTY FREE DAY

FARMFEST

July 8, 9 am to 8 pm

FREE Admission for Everyone

Presented by Ken Ganley Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Fiat Painesville & Ken Ganley Subaru Wickliffe

Ken Ganley
SUBARU WICKLIFFE
Ken Ganley
CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP
RAM FIAT PAINESVILLE

This family-oriented event is rapidly becoming a favorite in northeast Ohio for both the young and young at heart. With food and music, families can enjoy farm activities, music, and much more including pony rides (\$6). Pick up lunch or dinner from one of the food vendors while enjoying a glass of beer or wine provided by Grand River Valley wineries and Double Wing Brewery (other food and beverages are also available at a reasonable cost). Music wise, we will have a full slate of family-friendly groups to dance to.

18 LAKE COUNTY FREE DAY

HISTORICAL ENGINE SOCIETY ANTIQUE POWER EXHIBITION

July 28, 29 & 30

Farmpark is hosting the Historical Engine Society's 52nd Annual Antique Power Exhibition. If there is a member of your family that enjoys machinery—this is your event. During your visit to the show, you can expect to see antique tractors, construction & excavation equipment, cars, trucks, and hit & miss engines. You can witness a tractor pull, parade of machinery and earth moving demonstrations throughout the day.



EARL LINABURG

8 AUGUST

VINTAGE OHIO WINE FESTIVAL AND A LITTLE BREW TOO! August 4 & 5, noon to 9 pm

Brought to you by the Ohio Wine Producers Association
Take part in this fun-filled outdoor festival. Sample Ohio wines from worldclass Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc or Riesling to fun-to-drink fruit wines made of fresh strawberries, blackberries, peaches and raspberries. Whether one enjoys red, white, blush, dry, sweet or something in-between, there will be an opportunity to find a favorite "Vintage experience." There is also scrumptious food, cooking school demonstrations, two stages of live musical entertainment, artisans, and shopping along with Farmpark's regular activities. Special rates and hours apply. For details, ticket options and pricing, or to purchase tickets in advance, go to visitvintageohio.com. Farmpark members receive a discount on advanced purchase tickets only. Call 440-466-4417 for more information.

6 LAKE COUNTY FREE DAY

15 LAKE COUNTY FREE DAY

HONEY BBQ PAIRING DINNER August 18, 5:30 to 9 pm

Presented by Sylvan Learning of Mentor

\$80* per person, pre-registration required at lakemetroparks.com or call 440-358-7275

Bees are vitally important pollinators for local farming and agriculture. Guests will tour the apiary and gardens with Farmpark staff and enjoy a honey harvesting talk and tasting. Enjoy honey garlic chicken skewers, lemongrass chicken potstickers with sweet thai chili sauce, pretzel-crusted chicken tenders with honey mustard, and hot honey goat cheese crostini. Then enjoy a delicious chicken breast with honey lemon orzo and vegetables (seafood or vegetarian available), tomato basil parmesan soup with spiced honey drizzle, and baklava with strawberry compote paired with a selection of various wines.

*A refund will be given if the Registration Department is notified by the participant at least five days prior to the dinner. Failure to attend the dinner will be considered a forfeiture of all materials supplied and money paid.

MILK & HONEY WEEKEND August 19 & 20

Presented by Ken Ganley Subaru Wickliffe & Sylvan Learning of Mentor

Explore the world of milk and honey. Learn how milk becomes cheese, butter, or ice cream and watch the production process. Learn about bees and their role in pollination, how honey is harvested, pollinator-friendly plants, as well as how bees contribute to many products that we use in our daily lives. Demonstrations, garden tours, and more.

Ken Ganley
SUBARU WICKLIFFE
Sylvan Learning

Backyard Farming:

Starting Agriculture from the Ground Up

by Jenny Greskovich, *Livestock Manager*

Many people become inspired to start new projects in the spring. Garden centers bloom with plants and feed stores begin to fill with the chirping of baby chicks. It's no wonder that new ideas begin to form when the outside loses its chill and the warmth of spring welcomes us again.

Most people don't grow up on farms anymore and many think that the lack of farmland means they cannot delve into the world of agriculture. This is not the case—recently the concept of homesteading has grown in popularity, even in highly-

populated areas that may lack space. Homesteading is a lifestyle centered around the concept of self-sufficiency—the ability to grow and maintain resources without depending on stores and other services to provide them. To be truly self-sufficient takes a great deal of time and effort, but more and more people are embracing “old school” practices that their

ancestors lived off, even in the face of an ever-growing and technological world. Homesteading and agriculture go hand in hand and Farmpark offers information about many different projects that anyone can try.

How do you begin to homestead? There are many different things to try. Raising your own food is a popular project to begin with, including raising animals and

gardening. Some homesteading ideas that we encourage involve raising bees, vegetable and fruit farming, and raising poultry, goats, and sheep. Although some projects require more resources and space than others, there is something for everyone within these popular homesteading ideas.

Raising **poultry** is a relatively easy way to begin your homesteading journey. There are a number of different kinds of poultry to consider, including chickens, ducks, turkeys, and guinea hens. The most important consideration is why you want to raise poultry: are you interested in eggs or meat? Once you establish your purpose, you can begin researching what would best fit your needs. Chickens are incredibly popular, and are usually easy to find. Be sure to know what types of breeds you are looking for, as laying breeds vary from market breeds. There are a few breeds of poultry that are dual-purpose, meaning they can be raised for both, which may be an attractive option for prospective homesteaders. There are also “miniature” chickens, called bantams, that also came in a variety of breeds and may be easier to raise in a limited yard area.

Raising **bees** can be rewarding because it offers honey and honeycomb to your list of self-sufficient resources and allows for a unique and interesting hobby. Be sure to research how to properly take care of bees, especially in the harsh Ohio winters.



Homesteading can be healthier for you and the environment.

Knowing exactly where your food comes from and what products were used on or in the food before consumption gives you great control.

Bees can be raised in a single box in a yard or many boxes; be sure to consider how big you would like your bee project to grow! Those who raise bees can also enjoy the many benefits of beeswax, which can be made into a variety of crafts and useful items.

Raising **sheep or goats** can seem like a challenging feat but can also be very rewarding! The concept of using sheep and goats to forage and maintain yards is growing in popularity. Sheep and goats need more space to roam, but there are smaller breeds that are perfect to raise in a reasonably-sized yard. Be sure to research their nutritional needs and consider that their hooves must be maintained and that most sheep breeds must be shorn every year. We recommend choosing either sheep or goats to maintain yards because they have a tendency to share parasites between them when living together on pasture. Also consider the many other resources that sheep or goats could provide, such as wool and meat. Dairy goats can also provide milk for your family.

If animals seem like too much of a challenge or you are limited on space, **produce** farming may be the perfect project for you! Raising your own vegetables is a delicious way to get involved. If you have limited space, the concept of vertical gardening may appeal to you.

Vertical gardening involves growing rows of plants stacked on top of one another instead of spreading out over a large patch of land. There are a variety of plants suitable for beginners—Farmpark's Plant Science Center staff can offer plenty of tips and tricks to get you started!

As you can see, the concept of homesteading opens a world of unlimited possibilities. In addition to the benefits you can receive from raising your own food, you can enjoy knowing that homesteading can be healthier for you and the environment. Knowing exactly where your food comes from and what products were used on or in the food before consumption gives you great control. With livestock, it ensures you know the care that the animal received and can monitor their welfare throughout their life. In addition, raising your own food is much healthier for the environment, especially when considering how much time and energy go into transporting food across the country. Have you ever wondered how far your vegetables have travelled before reaching your supermarket? Think about all the energy required to transport an item from another state (or even another country!) to your table.

Farmpark staff is happy to offer advice about beginning your homesteading project! Stop by to learn more about how to begin your agricultural journey.





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