

LAKE METROPARKS

# FARM PARK

*Ice Maniac*



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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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# LAKE METROPARKS FARMPARK 2023 Special Events

**Fun Time on the Farm Indoor Play Area** January 20 through March 12

**Ice Festival\*** January 27 & 28

**Farmer Monday** February 20

**Maple Sugaring Weekends** March 4 & 5, 11 & 12

**Maple Sugaring Pairing Dinner\*‡** March 10

**Quilts 2023** March 31 through April 30

**Breakfast with the Bunny\*‡** April 1 & 2, 7 & 8

**Lamb Jam** April 29 & 30

**Country Pairing Dinner\*‡** May 19

**HorseFest** May 20 & 21

**The Spring Showdown Lamb Show** May 28

**Railroads in the Park** June 3 & 4

**FarmFest\*** July 8 *FREE admission*

**Historical Engine Society Antique Power Exhibition** July 28, 29 & 30

**Vintage Ohio Wine Festival\*‡** August 4 & 5

**Honey BBQ Pairing Dinner\*‡** August 18

**Milk & Honey Weekend** August 19 & 20

**Corn Maze** September 1 through October 15

**Senior Day** September 14

**Village Peddler Festival\*‡** September 16 & 17

**Apple Harvest Pairing Dinner\*‡** September 22

**Apple Harvest Weekend** September 23 & 24

**Horsepower Weekend** September 30 & October 1

**Corn & Pumpkin Weekend** October 7 & 8

**Halloween Drive-thru\*‡** October 6-8, 13-15, 20-22, 27-29

**Country Lights\*‡** TBD

**Breakfast or Lunch with Santa\*‡** TBD

Visit [goto.lakemetroparks.com/farmpark-events](https://goto.lakemetroparks.com/farmpark-events) for details.

*\*Special hours and/or rates apply.  
 ‡ Tickets must be purchased in advance.*



## Reflecting on the Past Year & Planning for the Future

by Lee Homyock, *Farmpark Administrator*

Farmpark was back to regular hours in 2022 with our programming adjusting to the changing environment. We enjoyed having our visitors, especially Farmpark members, back to enjoy Farmpark. We were able to provide many of special events and programs for approximately 181,000 visitors. One new event, the 51st Annual Historical Engine Society's Antique Power Exhibition was so well received that they will be back in 2023. The Spring Showdown Lamb Show was also a hit and will return next year.

We were excited to open a new outdoor equine area that was first utilized during Horsepower Weekend for demonstrations and competitions. The facility will be used for many Farmpark events and programs in 2023. The facility will also be available for use by outside groups.

In 2023, we plan to continue to provide facility rentals, programs, and special events throughout the calendar year. After a few-year hiatus, The very popular Village Peddler Festival will return in 2023. We've also begun preparations for a few new events as well. Shearing Weekend will be reimagined as Lamb Jam with a greater emphasis on fun family activities and will be held in Farmpark's Arena during Quilts 2023. A new Country Pairing Dinner is scheduled for the Friday of Horsepower Weekend and will take the place of the Shearing Pairing Dinner. The Fun Time on the Farm Indoor Play Area will remain, as in 2022, open January 20 through Mid-March.

Please mark the dates for your favorite events listed on the opposite page. Country Lights and Breakfast or Lunch with Santa dates are to be determined in early 2023.

We look forward to your visits to Farmpark in 2023!

Check out the new event Lamb Jam at the end of April for some springtime family fun!



The new outdoor equine arena opened in 2022.



MICHELLE ROMEO



PHOTOS BY ANNALIESE HRIBAR, EARL LINABURG, @LMTADVENTURES, IGOR OLYARNIK & AL SUSINSKAS

# Farmpark CALENDAR



Farmpark is open year-round Tuesday through Sunday, 9 am to 5 pm.  
Open Monday, February 20 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

## 1 JANUARY

17 Lake County FREE DAY

### FUN TIME ON THE FARM INDOOR PLAY AREA

January 20 through March 12, 9 am to 5 pm

Presented by Playground World

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

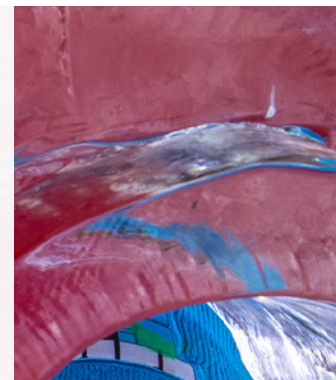


### ICE FESTIVAL

Friday, January 27, 5 to 8 pm

Saturday, January 28, 9 am to 5 pm

Shake the winter blues that fall upon Ohioans every January. The Farmpark Ice Festival will kick off Friday night with the unveiling of the Farmpark-themed ice chair and an ice carving demonstration. The night will end with a battle between fire and ice! On Saturday, come witness some of the best ice carvers from around the country take part in a speed carving competition and a woodcarver vs. ice carver competition. Take photos with your family and friends on our full-sized ice chair and ice slide. Then sit by a fire pit and warm up with hot cocoa and s'mores (additional charge). Enjoy many other winter-themed family fun activities.



## 2 FEBRUARY

5 Lake County FREE DAY

21 Lake County FREE DAY

### FARMER MONDAY

February 20

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 farm experiences! No registration required.



## 3 MARCH

### MAPLE SUGARING WEEKENDS

March 4 & 5, 11 & 12

Witness the maple-producing process as sap is collected from our network of tubing and 1,100 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.



EARL LINABURG

5 Lake County FREE DAY

### MAPLE SUGARING PAIRING DINNER

March 10, 5:30 to 9 pm

Fee: \$80 per adult 21 and older, pre-registration required at lakemetroparks.com or by calling 440-358-7275

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 sugarbush and learn how maple syrup is made on both the professional and the backyard level from a Farmpark maple-sugaring specialist. Then, enjoy a delicious meal prepared with wine pairing by a local vineyard. This event is for adults 21 and older only. 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.

21 Lake County FREE DAY

### QUILTS 2023

March 31 through April 30

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 attendees can vote for the People's Choice award, to be announced by April 26. Quilt workshops offered with pre-registration.



BETH HELFTER

## 4 APRIL

2 Lake County FREE DAY

### BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

April 1 & 2, 7 & 8

Fee: \$18 ages 12 and older, \$15 ages 2 to 11, \$7 younger than 2  
Bunny visits children in the café. After breakfast, take a photo with Bunny in his arbor in the Theater. Visit lambs in the Well Bred Shed (photo opportunity).

Ticket sale dates: (online only)

- Lake County residents & Farmpark members\*:  
Mon., February 27 at 8 am
- Open sales: Tue., February 28 at 8 am

\*Farmpark membership must be current as of noon on Monday, Feb. 20 and remain current on day of purchase.

18 Lake County FREE DAY

### QUILT VENDOR DAYS

April 28, 29 & 30

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!

### LAMB JAM **NEW!**

April 29 & 30

New for 2023...it's LAMB JAM! A weekend of sheep thrills where you can help shear a sheep, spin wool, weave on a loom and learn to make felt. Join the party in the barn for photo ops with Little Bo Peep and her real live sheep, woolly crafts to make and take, and Lamb Jam sessions where you'll learn to do the pasture shuffle. The border collies will also show off their moves, along with the Western Reserve Spinners and Weavers Guild. Be sure to join us for a woolly good time!



RACHAEL HORVATH

# Seed Starting Basics

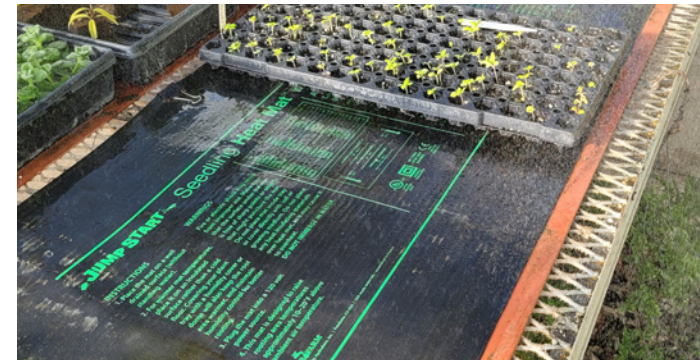
by Valerie F. Reinhardt, Horticulture Manager

As winter fades and the days get longer, thoughts of spring come to mind. Time is ripe for planning your garden even though the snow and cold days are still ahead. Now is the time to consider starting seeds for transplanting. Come February, many garden centers and stores already have seeds for sale and if you are like me, you may have already received a catalog or two in the mail. Starting from seed gives you the advantage of having a larger selection of varieties to choose from. Most garden centers and nurseries are only able to offer a handful of varieties when it comes to vegetables and bedding plants.

There are a few things to consider when starting from seeds. Seed packets list germination instructions from temperature, planting depth, how long the seed takes to germinate, what temperature they need to germinate, and how soon to start seeds before transplanting them outdoors. These dates are based on the last frost-free date, which in northeast Ohio is usually the second week of May. There are some exceptions: cool-season crops like peas and spinach

can take a light frost. This is where planning comes in handy. Tomatoes and peppers need six to eight weeks headstart before planting outside whereas broccoli and kale only need four weeks. Herbs like parsley may need 12 due to their long germination period.

Spend some time thinking about where to start your seedlings. Most people don't have a greenhouse, so a good alternative is a grow light. Grow lights are available in fluorescent and LED and should be kept about six inches above the plants. Heat can be a bit harder to come by as room heat doesn't always equate soil temperature—that's where heat mats come in. If you don't have a heat mat, you might consider another source of heat like a lamp with an incandescent bulb that produces heat. Most garden seeds germinate between 65 and 75 degrees. Tropicals like tomatoes and peppers need warmer temperatures to wake up while lettuce does well with cooler temperatures and may not need additional heat at all.



Heat mat with flat on top



Once seeds start to germinate and get their first true leaves, you can add some diluted fertilizer when watering.

There are a variety of kits for seed starting on the market with trays and inserts or you can get by with an empty egg carton on a tray. Damping off is a common problem with seed starting and is caused by fungus. Fungus can be prevented by using sterile germinating mix and clean pots or trays. If you are reusing old pots or seed trays make sure they are disinfected. Make sure you don't over water seedlings—they should be kept moist but not soaked. A clear plastic cover can help keep them moist.

Once seeds start to germinate and get their first true leaves, you can add some diluted fertilizer when watering. Believe it or not, it helps to pet your seedlings by brushing your hands across them. This stimulates outside conditions and will strengthen the stems. Before planting them outside, transition them to outside conditions by placing them in a protected area with partial sun for a few days until they acclimate to outdoor conditions.

Starting from seeds allows you to choose from a variety of options you may not have if you buy plants from a garden center or nursery. Heirloom seeds offered in specialty catalogs, the newest hybrid on the market or even seeds saved from last year's garden make for a unique garden that you can tailor to your tastes.

If you have questions about seed starting or where to find seeds, come visit the Plant Science Center at Lake Metroparks Farmpark to see what we have sprouting up. We're always happy to share garden tips with visitors.



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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.

