



The 4-H Education Center at Auer Farm is a non-profit that provides education, agriculture and recreation opportunities to promote awareness and appreciation of the deep roots of agriculture in the community.

## 4-H Education Center at Auer Farm in Bloomfield



# Our Farm, AUER FARM,

## Summer Farm Academy: Success!

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We had a great response to our Summer Farm Academy. Children from 4-12 years have come for a week of agricultural science, wildlife and horticulture lessons. We have had morning groups of about 7 students planting pizza gardens, harvesting herbs, making homemade dough and ice cream, exploring embryology and much more. **Consider us for your Summer 2009 plans!**



**Kids from Hartford and Canton sculpt shelters for animals from natural and man made materials.**

Our afternoons have been full with 40-50 students per day coming from **Canton, Simsbury**, and community based organizations in **Hartford**, such as **Billings Forge, Connectikids** and **OPMAD**. We'll also be hosting a week of Environmental Science activities with a group of students from **New Britain** and **Southington** in August. Much of the funding for these exciting programs comes from **Interdistrict** and **Hartford Foundation**

### Book Now For Apples And Apple Trees!

Our classic Fall program begins 9/4/08. Come out with your family, school group, Scout Troop or have an apple picking, cider making, hayriding birthday party!

## Super Saturday!

We had a successful Saturday on July 26th! Nearly 100 visitors, blueberry pickers and Foodshare volunteers churned homemade ice cream, made nature prints and watercolor paintings and took scenic hayrides through the orchards. Thank you for your donations and a wonderful day!



**Join us again on 9/13!**  
**For more information and a calendar, go to:**  
**[www.auerfarm.org](http://www.auerfarm.org)**  
**(860)242-7144, ext.10**

*Clover, the pygmy goat, proudly displays one of the four Hs!*

**Remember: Head, Heart, Hands and Health!**

# What do Auer Campers Have to Say?



Young farmers prepare fresh omelettes from eggs and herbs they collected on the farm.



Christian builds a shelter for animals after studying the needs and behavior of the farm animals. We used natural materials, sticks and model magic!

*“It’s fun petting all the animals and making cool snacks with food from the farm!”*

*-Oliver, age 11*

*“I love going to the chicken coops, giving them water and collecting eggs. Sheep and cows have 4 stomachs!”*

*-Ethan, age 7*



Kylee has a close encounter with a balled python from the Harris Agricultural Center in Bloomfield. High school students practice their naturalist skills by giving reptile presentations to younger kids.

## Farm Animal Facts

Compiled by Nick Eichar

There are about 20,000 dairy cows in Connecticut.

There are about 1,755,000 dairy cows in California.

It takes 12 pounds of whole milk to make one gallon of ice cream.

Cows have an acute sense of smell - they can smell something up to 6 miles away!

The average lifespan of a cow is 7 years.

It is estimated that cows produce 40 gallons of methane per day.

The average dairy cow consumes 300 pounds of water each day.

Each day a cow spends six hours eating and eight hours chewing its cud.

The first cow in America arrived in Jamestown colony in 1611.



## Save the Date: Fall Festival 10/4/08

This year the 2008 Fall Festival promises to be an incredible event. Children, families, neighbors, Friends of the Farm and members of the greater Bloomfield Community come to the Fall Festival to celebrate our farm and the community.

Join us for the 2008 Fall Festival and enjoy a hayride, pick some apples, help make some cider, enjoy the food, music, and crafts. There will be prizes and more. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Farm and members of the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce.



# Foodshare's Summer Bounty

Don't look now – but there's an explosion going on up on the hill! The rain and warm weather we've had for the past few weeks has been energizing the rows of lettuce and squash, peas and kale. But – just as the garden grows – so do the weeds! Thanks to our regular volunteers and the various groups that have dedicated Thursday and Saturday mornings, we've

been busy weeding and mulching! We have already picked about 150 lbs of produce and taken it down to the distribution center and there's going to be plenty more!

We have a new information board just inside the garden entrance. Watch for garden notes - including the weekly "To Do" list, information on various aspects of or-

ganic gardening, (such as beneficial insects), and, especially, the total poundage of our yield as we go through the season. Workshops and volunteer opportunities will be available throughout the summer. **Call Ed or Marlene Mayes at 232-0363, or Foodshare at (860)286-9999.**

## Board of Directors

- Patricia Estill, Co-Chair
  - Earl Gardner, Co-Chair
  - Lynn Brown, Vice Chair
  - Mary Catherine Healey, Secretary
  - Dave Ryan, Treasurer
  - Cecil Adams
  - Sam Ahilan
  - Tracy Bennett
  - Anthony L. Drapelick
  - Tina Foster
  - Stephen Haynes
  - Nicholas Miller
  - Liz Salsedo
  - Ty Tryon
  - Vera E. Smith -Winfrey
  - Beth Salsedo
  - Nancy Bull
- Staff**
- Education Director: Beth Salsedo

Office Manager: Rose Dugas

Teachers: Katy Vicchitto and Jenna Castle

Production: Justin Whitehouse

## Thank You, Summer Volunteers, Workers and Donors!

We have had a great turnout of willing workers and generous donations on the farm this season! We hosted an International 4-H Youth Exchange student from Estonia. Siiri was a helpful addition to the farm, tending squash plants and weeding with Marcia Smith, a volunteer from

Wethersfield, and Caleb Gardner. We are also thrilled to have Nick Eichar, Kelsey Mcguss and Michelle Deegan working with us this summer. Come lend a hand!!



*Marcia, Siiri and Caleb, working the wigwam garden.*

## National 4-H at Auer Farm

On June 13th, we welcomed **Dr. Cathann Kress**, Director, Youth Development, National 4-H Headquarters to Connecticut with a sunset reception on the farm. Dr. Kress was serving as the keynote presenter at the 2008 Connecticut 4-H All Camp Staff Conference



on June 14, and we wanted to give her the opportunity to visit with 4-H staff and volunteers in Connecticut, and also to see some of our outstanding programs such as the 4-H Education Center at Auer Farm. Dr. Kress shared with us the current focus of

**National 4-H, a commitment to outdoor education.**



*Living it up on the new stone pavers in the Children's garden.*



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4-H Education Center at Auer Farm  
 158 Auer Farm Road, off Rt.185  
 Bloomfield, CT 06002  
 Phone: 860-242-7144  
 Fax: 860-243-0005  
 E-mail: 4bcenter@comcast.net

**Save the Date! Fall Festival 2008!**  
**Hayrides, Food, Vendors, Corn Maze,**  
**Music!**

**Saturday, October 4th, 11-4**



We're on the web!  
[www.auerfarm.org](http://www.auerfarm.org)

**Become a Friend of Auer Farm**

We invite you to help us carrying out the mission of Auer Farm. Your generous support allows us to provide an outdoor educational experience for thousands of children across Connecticut, Christmas trees, delicious raspberries, blueberries and apples and open-space habitat for wildlife. As a friend of the farm, you can be sure that this 120 acres will stay open and accessible for you, and for generations to come! Donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be made payable to:

**4-H Education Center at Auer Farm**

Just tear off and return this portion of the newsletter to:

**Friends of Auer Farm, 158 Auer Farm Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002**

I want to help with future projects and my donation of

\$25\_\_\_, \$50\_\_\_, \$100\_\_\_, \$250\_\_\_, \$500\_\_\_, other\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



It will take community spirit and \$100,000 to rebuild this barn. Join the team!