



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.

All the Moos that's Fit to Print

Inside this issue:

Adult Education programs! 2

Your Farm: How can you get involved? 2

Sign up for Summer 2

07 Highlights 3

Special points of interest:

- New Kestrel box in the orchard. Watch for their return in the spring.
- Owls, and bobcats and bears, oh my!
- Community Maple Syrup Program: 2/23, 11-1
- Apple tree pruning starts now, for a great harvest this fall!

Winter on the farm is a time for hunkering down and scheming for spring, but it also brings with it a multitude of challenges. Keeping the animals warm and comfortable, getting folks out here for a winter nature walk or program, selling all our Christmas trees, and starting those tractors!

Maple Syrup is our next project! The sap is running and school groups will be arriving soon to tap the sugarbush and learn about this traditional New England Activity. Stop by to visit the barn and sugar house!

A new 4-H Club with teens from the American School for the Deaf have cultivated an interest in farming. They have enjoyed collecting eggs, making ornaments, nature walks and hard work in the barn and the Learning Center.



A maple tree can give a gallon of sap per day. It takes 35 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup!



Dreams of Deere

Santa didn't actually bring us a new tractor, but we'll keep



dreaming of a new bucket loader for the farm. Actually, the one to the right would be more practical! Join our tractor fund! When we raise enough money we'll invite you to have your picture taken!



Community Programs to Beat The Winter Blues



Bring the family for making maple syrup and a pancake brunch!
Saturday, 2/23/08, 11-1pm

As the weather gets colder, our attention turns to using our dried herb harvest to make soothing salves, crafts, indoor plants to brighten up our space and dreaming about what we'll do in the gardens in the spring. Let us brighten up your winter days! Our **Visiting Farm** programs are a great way to liven up a recreation center, or provide community education.

- ◆ **Traveling Barnyard:** Host a visit from Penny, a velvety-soft Mini Rex rabbit, and Lucky, our most motherly hen.
- ◆ **Healing Salves and Herbal Tea:** Use essential oils and beeswax to make simple balms to soothe dry skin.
- ◆ **Garden Design 101:** Choose from a variety of activities: creating a small windowsill garden, forcing bulbs, or planning a community garden for spring.
- ◆ **Shepherding in Tuscany:** View a slideshow presentation of the history of shepherds and one woman's experience herding sheep in Italy.
- ◆ **Feeding the Soul:** Make simple, nutritious foods suitable for the season. We'll use local foods to cook together, possibilities include hand-cranked ice cream, apple desserts and more!

Call us for more information !

Your Farm: Get Involved

“Connecticut's farmland is disappearing at the alarming rate of 8,000 acres a year.”
www.ctfarmland.org

The 120-acre historic farm was once the model farm of the Auerbach Family who generously donated it to us. We are open 12 months a year offering seasonal and year-round programs to school groups, preschools, community groups and the public. You can book a program, visit, make a tax deductible donation, or volunteer.

Community Service Projects will begin at the Farm on February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10 and June 14 from 9:00-11:00am. It will include such projects as painting, weeding, transplanting, carpentry, litter pick up, caring for the farm animals, yard work and planting trees. Bring the entire family!

Thanks to Beth Shiro for helping to support the purchase of our new plow.



A summer hayride out to the field for a day in the life of a farmer!

Sign Up Now for Summer Children's Programs

Don't let your child suffer from Nature Deficit Disorder! Send them out to our **Summer Farming Academy**. We'll experience the daily life of a sustainable farmer. From animal care to arugula, budding agronomists will extract plant DNA, churn ice cream the old-fashioned way and gain the

confidence, fitness and self-esteem that comes from farming skills. Participants will experience a week on the farm. At the end of a successful week, we'll enjoy the fruits of our labor with an official graduation ceremony from the Auer Farm Academy!

Sign up for a week or two. **Programs run weekly Monday through Friday, A.M and P.M. sessions. Pre-k-6th grade.**

June 16th-August 15th

Call for details and to reserve a spot! (860)242-7144

Day Of Caring 2007

This year's Day of Caring volunteer extravaganza was incredible! More than 100 volunteers from big companies cleaned the barn, built benches, weeded and so much more. Thank you so much! We look forward to seeing you all next fall.



4,100 employees from 90 companies volunteered at over 175 nonprofits across the state.

Board of Directors

- Lucy Nolan, Chair
- Lynn Brown, Vice Chair
- Mary Catherine Healey, Secretary
- Dave Ryan, Treasurer
- Patricia H. Estill, Past Chair
- Cecil Adams
- Sam Ahilan
- Anthony L. Drapelick
- Tina Foster
- Earl W. Gardner
- Stephen Haynes
- Luanne McDonough
- Douglas Putnam
- Nicholas Miller
- Liz Salsedo
- Ty Tryon
- Vera E. Smith -Winfree
- Beth Salsedo
- Mary Ellen Welch
- Nancy Bull

Staff

- Education Director: Beth Salsedo
- Office Manager: Rose Dugas
- Teachers: Katy Vicchitto and Jenna Castle
- Production: Justin Whitehouse

Farm Festival 2007

The sun shone on the 2,000 folks who painted pumpkins, barbecued and boogied at Farm Festival! Save the date Oct. 4th, 2008!



Farmer's Focus: Friday

Friday is a feisty Dexter who gave us a bit of trouble in November getting her into the barn. She will be giving birth to a calf this winter, and we are all eager to meet her new baby!

Watch the website for updates!



Dexter cattle are short, stocky animals bred for the rugged terrain of Southern Ireland. American Dexters are a triple-purpose breed ideal for the homestead. They do it all, work, milk and beef.

