



COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA

Office of Agricultural Coordinator

Sheila Miller, Agricultural Coordinator

Berks County Ag. Center
1238 County Welfare Road, Suite 110
Leesport, PA 19533-9709

Phone: 610-898-5482

Fax: 610-378-7961

E-mail: SMiller@countyofberks.com

Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair
Mark C. Scott, Esq., Commissioner
Kevin S. Barnhardt, Commissioner

MaryJo Gibson, Chief Clerk
Alan S. Miller, Solicitor
Carl E. Geffken, Chief Operating Officer

Date: October 2, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Sheila Miller, Agricultural Coordinator

Subject: 2014 October Farm Tour

MORGANTOWN --- Southern Berks County will be featured in this year's annual October Farm Tour on Saturday, October 18, 2014. The area is rich in history, forests and farmland, according to Sheila Miller, Berks County's agricultural coordinator.

"The Twin Valley tour includes host farms and agri-businesses in Caernarvon, Robeson, and Union townships," Miller noted. "Nearby, are French Creek State Park and Joanna Furnace. We are pleased to have ten locations that will be welcoming this year's visitors. They include three dairy farms, a llama farm, a Christmas tree farm, an organic nursery, a forest-management parcel, a fruit farm, a farm organization's headquarters, and Twin Valley High School's Agriculture Department's aquaculture project"

To participate in the tour, visitors need to purchase a tour booklet on the day of the tour. Booklet sales start at 8:30 a.m. at three locations: Plow Farms, 4339 Morgantown Road, Mohnton, PA 19540, 610-856-7740; Weaver's Orchard Inc., 40 Fruit Lane, Morgantown, PA 19543 610-856-7300; and Twin Valley High School Agriculture Department, 4897 Twin Valley Road, Elverson, PA 19520, 610-286-8650. Participants can visit all sites or select the just the ones they want to see between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The cost is still \$10 per family vehicle.

"The booklet contains a map of all the host locations, along with our sponsors, and information about each stop," explained Miller. "The nice thing for families is that this continues to be a self-driving tour so you can go at your own pace and stay as long as you'd like at each farm. We will have educational displays at certain stops, and two agricultural organizations will be selling refreshments: the Berks Southeast Cattlemen's Association and the Farm Women Society of Berks County. We hope all the fresh air and sunshine builds up everyone's appetite for good, local food."

Miller added that each booklet purchase include coupons for tour participants to deposit at each host location. Special door prizes will be given to lucky winners following the Berks Agricultural Resource Network's November meeting. "The more places you visit on October 18th, the better your chances of winning," she said. "Only one coupon per location is allowed."

The October Farm tour is sponsored by the Berks Agricultural Resource Network, a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the county's agricultural industry and related food industries. Organized in 2008, B.A.R.N. has hosted this event for six years with assistance from the Office of Agricultural Coordinator and others. For more information about the October Farm Tour, contact Miller at 610-898-5482 or smiller@countyofberks.com.

Dedicated to public service with integrity, virtue & excellence

www.co.berks.pa.us

Sponsors for the 2014 October Farm Tour include: Kathy Barry Agency, Fulton Bank, Susquehanna Bank, Lloyd and Phoebe Hopkins, RER Energy Group, Giorgi Mushroom Co., Greater Reading Economic Partnership, Hartman Shurr Valeriano, Reading Eagle, Senator Judy Schwank, Redner's Warehouse Markets, Berks County Conservation District, Linda Beiler Straw Artist, F.M. Browns & Sons Inc., State Representative Mark Gillen, Manatawny Creek Winery, Bernard C. Morrissey Insurance Inc., Ontelaunee Orchards Inc., and Tractor Supply Co. - Lebanon.



This little llama is waiting to see you at this year's October Farm tour.



Learn all about dairy cows and where milk, cheese and ice cream originate.