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Homeplace on Green River

November 2017



Fall festival had something for everyone

The news from the September Fall Heritage Festival at Homeplace comes a little late, but is just as significant today as it was September 9. An estimated 2,000 festival goers took advantage of a beautiful day to ride the rides, eat the eats and listen to the great music in the newly renovated bank barn. There were alpacas, birds, bees, butterflies, bunnies, cattle and even a guinea pig.

The Kentucky artists and crafters were kept busy all day showing, demonstrating and selling their art and crafts. The music was great, the food tasty and the exhibitions interesting and informative. There were colonial reenactors and demonstrations of butter making, crafting arrowheads, and blacksmithing. But the story is best explained with photos, and there are lots of them on pages four, five and six and even more on the Homeplace Web page at www.homeplacefarmky.org.



Food in America project

For the second year in a row, Homeplace served as the venue for a Food in America program for school children. Food in America's mission includes developing leadership skills among high school agriculture students. The program held September 26th, was spearheaded by the Taylor County High School Future Farmers of America (FFA.)



More than 500 students from Taylor County were exposed to 27 educational booths set up by the FFA, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), DECA, (an organization for business, marketing and entrepreneurial students), and Technology Students of America (TSA.)

Many aspects of food were discussed and demonstrated including livestock, grain, pollination, fruit and orchard development, greenhouse agriculture, nutrition, marketing, finance, agriculture mechanics and mapping and use of drones in agriculture.

Most of the students were third graders because science, including agriculture, is part of the third grade core curriculum. Homeplace and the Farm Bureau helped sponsor this event.

Story by Suzanne Ince

Adair board member clears trails

Adair board member David Goguen, who teaches at Lindsey Wilson, has been working on trail maintenance in preparation for the spring hikers. If you do use the trails, please remember to leave with everything you bring with you. That includes empty bottles, candy wrappers, and anything else you carry in. You can also help by picking up trash left by thoughtless folks.

Garden club woods walk

The Adair County Garden Club assembled at Homeplace for its monthly meeting September 28 for a walk in the woods led by Billy Joe Fudge, a retired forester and Homeplace board president. They spent nearly two hours on the woods trail.

Billy Joe identified many of the trees describing their uses in both pioneer times and today. He spoke of the terrain, how nature evolves in a wooded setting, and informed the group of characteristics of a variety of trees along the trail. They learned about the character of dry creek beds, how to identify trees by



their leaves and a host of other topics. A tired but satisfied group of adult learners emerged from the woods with new-found knowledge and appreciation of the natural beauty at Homeplace on Green River. The Garden Club thanks Billy Joe for his efforts and guidance.

Story by Bill Coleman

Groundwater quality grant extended

The conservation and innovation grant in partnership with the UK Geological Survey has been extended through December 2018. Funded by the National Resources Conservation Service, the grant is helping Homeplace learn more about the groundwater at the farm and surrounding area. We should have updates on the project in the spring.

Average cost of weddings \$35K+

According to USA Today the average cost of a wedding has soared to \$35,329. Homeplace can help keep that cost down. Use of the facilities at Homeplace costs \$1500. There are other costs, but that's a good start. For more information call Suzanne Ince at (270 572 6217 or email homeplacefarmkentucky

Homeplace research will help answer key question

Most farmers in Kentucky know grain fields with winter cover crops will lose less soil during the winter; have less weed competition during the following growing season; and have more organic matter returned to the soil than fields without winter season cover crops.

Most lean toward the assumption that fields with healthy, biologically active soils are more sustainably productive than fields with less healthy, less biologically active soils.

Since cover crops require additional investments in time and money, farmers are asking this one simple question; "Are fields with soil health cover crops going to be more profitable than fields without soil health cover crops?"

Homeplace has committed approximately 60 acres of cropland to help answer that question. Each fall the 30 acres in field A will receive a cover crop of cereal rye preceding a soybean year and cereal rye with at least two legumes preceding a corn year. Each fall the 30 acres in field B will not receive a cover crop. Both fields are the same soil type.

Soil samples will be pulled each April, analyzed and the data recorded. The samples are being sent to the University of Kentucky for the traditional chemical soil test and to Wards Laboratory for the Haney Soil Biology Test.

After a period of years there should be adequate data to draw conclusions concerning the effect of continual grain cropping with soil health cover crops in comparison with the effect of continual grain cropping without soil health cover crops. In other states where soil health cover crops have been used for a number of years, some farmers have reduced their chemical and fertilizer usage to where profits are increasing.



Cereal rye beginning its work of enhancing the soils at Homeplace. Its root mass and will help provide organic mulch for our soybean crop next Summer.

story and photo by Billy Joe Fudge

Farm to table conversation

According to the U. S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance 81% of farmers and ranchers agree that customers of U.S. crops and meat are becoming more concerned about environmental sustainability. Included in the mission of Homeplace on Green River is "dedication to the protection and promotion of rural American culture through the sustainability of agriculture and natural resources using education, conservation and the economic opportunities of agritourism."



Fall Festival Photos.

There are more photos posted on the Web page at www.homeplacefarmky.org.

Thanks to Denny Beach, Danny Jeffries, Maggie Coleman, Amanda Patterson, Kerry Coots, Becky Kennon and Jamie Johnson for the photos





Thanks to all who helped

There are so many to thank for their help and participation at September's fall heritage festival. So much of the success of the festival was because so many of you stepped in to help. It's impossible to name all, some because we lost track and some because you just stepped in and did what had to be done and never owned up to it. We thank you! If we have left you or your group off the list, please let us know and we will include you in the next Newsletter!

Here's the list as best as we have been able to do: All of the **arts and crafts vendors** with their quality products; **food vendors** for the good eats; **exhibitors** for their fascinating information; **the hay maze construction crew** and **Hootie Corbin** for the hay bales (if you are missing a child, know that we found no left-over children.) And let us add the fellows from **The Healing Place**, who have become important and dependable volunteer helpers at Homeplace in so many ways; **the musicians** and **Chris Anderson** who provided and monitored the sound system; and, the **barn builders**, from the 1860s until just this year for the great acoustics in the barn. We also thank: The **many volunteers** who came and helped wherever help was needed; **all of the little kids** who were so cute and pleasant, and, of course, **their parents and grandparents** who watched them so carefully and lovingly; **G & G Motors and Limestone** for the equipment they loaned for the day; the **FFA members and Lindsey Wilson Bonner Scholars**. Thanks for **all the smiling faces** as they pulled out of the parking lot on their way home. We also thank the **Central Kentucky News-Journal, The Greensburg Record-Herald, the Adair Progress, Community Voice, Columbia Magazine, and the radio stations** for the great coverage they gave the festival both before and after the event. And, last, although certainly not least, **the Lord for the fine day and the weather scientists who predicted it'**

Oh, and to **Mary Knight** who came up with this list. But don't blame her if you or your group should be listed, but are not. Blame the key board gremlins.

Scouts help with trails

Chris and Jackie Goodson brought their Cub Scout den to Homeplace October 21. The Scouts hiked and helped clean up the trails and enjoyed camping and making scarecrows. Homeplace encourages Scouting events at the farm and looks forward to additional partnerships with Scouts of all ages.

We currently have two field trips planned for this coming spring. If your group or organization is interested in a field trip or event at Homeplace call or e-mail the office for more information. E-mail us at homeplacefarmkentucky@windstream.net or call and leave a message at (270) 789-0006



HP needs a small single axle trailer

Homeplace needs a kind soul to donate a small single axle trailer that can be hauled behind a truck, tractor or ATV. It will be used to haul tables, chairs and other items as we move activities from one location to another. The trailer needs to be functional, but not new or pretty. Since we are a non-profit organization the value of any donation can be a tax write-off. If you can help, contact Billy Fudge at 270-250-2239.