

## Second annual peach festival readied by York Co. grower

GATCHELLVILLE, Pa. — "For lo, the winter is past," rejoiced King Solomon. And in that same strain of celebration, Maple Lawn Farms, personnel are making plans for their second annual Peach Blossom Festival April 24 and 25, beginning at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., respectively. Moving to a much larger building than last year's site in anticipation of more guests, this year's event promises to be a real "celebration of life on the land," according to Mr. and Mrs. Paul McPherson who initiated the festival last April at their Gatchellville farm.

## Berks Co. farmers hold spring meeting

BERKS COUNTY - On March 22, the Berks County Farmers Association held their Spring dinner meeting at the VFW in Bethel. President William Myers conducted the meeting and called on Mrs. William Moore for the report of the Political Energy Committee and Warren Lamb, the report of the Legislative Committee. William Moore spoke on the "when" and "why" of Association services, including insurance, direct marketing, accounting, and the Safemark tire plan.

James F. Haldeman, Berks County Agent, was on hand with a salute to agriculture in the spirit of the bicentennial season. Aided by a slide presentation "Heritage Horizons," Haldeman gave the group a look at agriculture at the time of our Nation's birth and traced its progress over ten-year intervals up to the present.

Know Where the Activities Will Be? Read the Farm Women Calendar.

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Already they have amassed over 30 craftsmen from Maryland and Pennsylvania to show and sell their handiwork; everything from art to ceramics, needlework to refrigerator magnets, hand-painted jewelry to sand art, dolls, wood carving, leaded glass, macramé, scrimshaw, caning, leather craft, rugs, flowers, calico and candles, acrylic blocks, Christmas ornaments, cone craft and Bicentennial memorabilia. Bedding plants will also be available.

The Stewartstown 4-H Club will man its petting zoo for children and all animal lovers. In addition to the penned animals, they will offer pony and buggy rides, weather permitting. True to the spirit of the occasion, there will be peach puree to top vanilla ice cream dipped by the Milk and Money 4-Hers from Airville, while the area Trail Riders 4-H group whirrs up gallons of milk shakes.

Eager to pay for their new fire truck, the Delta Firemen and their Auxiliary under the leadership of Joann Briton will provide fresh pizza from their Pizza Wagon, beef barbecue, baked goods and fudge as well as a bazaar table with crafts and old books for sale.

York County lamb producers will be promoting lamb with lamb-ka-bobs and stew in a unique setting next to the Disabled American Veterans, Baltimore Chapter No. 1, selling the great American hot dog with toppings and coffee. For dessert in addition to the bake sale tables, there will be the Pennsylvania

Dutch funnel cake and ready make to order donuts by the dozen.

"If we can contract some expert apple butter makers, we'd also like to host an apple butter boil Saturday for all to watch and stir. The canned apple butter would then go on sale Sunday by order or on a first-come, first-served basis," announced McPherson. "Last year's festival brought in a crowd of 2,000 on a weekend unusually cold about a week before the blossoms actually showed. This season's excessively warm weather is pushing the blossoms a little ahead of schedule, but different varieties hold the blossom season over about three weeks," stated the innovative fruit grower.

According to children and grown-ups, one of the most fascinating and fun amusements at the Maple Lawn Farms festival is the peach bin wagon train ride through the orchards where they can see the pruners cutting back branches to keep the trees in shape. The trees offer a veritable sea of pink overhead from which they can take home branches for flower arranging.

Planted in contours, the orchards present a first hand picture of conservation farming. School and group tours can be arranged to view the many conservation measures on the farm as

well as other crop operations: apples, corn, blueberries.

"This is a time for venting the pent up exhilarations of spring fever," asserts Mrs. McPherson. "We feel fortunate in having so much beautiful and productive nature around us, we just want others who aren't so close to the land to be able to share in our experiences and joy."

"With our new storage building near the packing house and grain elevators that holds over 50,000 bushels of corn in season, we have planned an event that will be free from the temperament of the weather and full enough with diverse activity to interest young and old alike. The week after Easter, and two weeks before Mother's Day, we hope the time is right for people to get away from it all and see a little of God's country where their food is produced," she concluded.

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