

Three Spring Run Farm opens doors to vacationers

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NEW ENTERPRISE — Most farm families would probably agree that they live in a world of their own, a world they wish all could experience. Life on the farm is different from any other way of life. While agriculture is number one in Pennsylvania, another industry is a growing part of it. That of vacationing on a family farm.

While many have been doing it for years, Don and Dottie Replogle are beginning their second season of opening Three Spring Run Farm to vacationers and sportsmen. The Bedford County dairy farm is just one of 31 listed in the Farm Vacation Directory available from the Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Farm Vacation Association.

Don operates a 500-acre Holstein farm with their two married sons, Steve and Denny. Fourteen-year-old Allen is still at home on the family farm. The Replogles got into the business of sharing their farm in much the same way other farmers have become involved. After buying an additional farm, they possessed a vacant farmhouse.

Dottie says they got the idea just two winters ago while visiting friends in Florida.

"They rented a house in Florida

already furnished, for a month," she explains. "I thought why don't we do that with our empty house. Maybe someone from the city would like to come to the country for a week," smiles Dottie.

They were wise enough not to plunge in without investigating.

"The first thing we did when we got the idea was go to see our county agent," she said. "He thought it was a great idea and gave us the book of farm vacations."

Dottie said that later the same day they visited the local tourist bureau. They too encouraged Dottie and Don to develop a place in the county which could be a central place for families to gather. Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell, while visiting Bedford County, agreed that a farm vacation is a way to let city folks know how country people live. Dottie also talked it over with fellow members of the Pa. Farmers Associations State Women's Committee.

That was all the support she needed to get her painting and wallpapering underway.

"We went to a lot of sales to furnish the house," says Dottie. "That was fun."

When it was too rainy for Don to be in the field he also got involved in the project. Although Dottie has



In rural Bedford County a large farmhouse welcomes city dwellers to experience a country farm setting. Three Spring Run Farm is in its second year of catering to vacationers.

received much help from her husband she says the project is all hers, but it seems to be of growing interest to Don.

"I had more reservations about it than she did," he smiles. "I'm a little harder to get enthused about things."

The Pa. Farm Vacation Assoc. requires that members be actively engaged in farming and that farms meet certain standards and be inspected regularly.

"I think my place is nice, but it's nothing fancy," Dottie honestly admits. "I don't want to put



A separate dining room is available in the vacation farmhouse to accommodate large families or groups. If guests choose not to cook while on vacation, nearby restaurants feature home style cooking.



Don and Dottie relax on their own porch as they enthusiastically talk about their experiences with a vacation farmhouse. They welcome summer vacationers, skiers and hunters. Guests have found it to be a central location to many tourist attractions.

any more money into it."

Three Spring Run Farm is open to the city dweller for \$100 a week or \$20 a night for the weekends. Dottie feels the price is right, because she reasons that they do not have a swimming pool or air conditioning that many people would expect at a motel.

While they aren't located in one of the major tourist areas of the state, the Replogles are quick to tell you what they do have to offer. A farmhouse nestled in a quiet country setting near Yellow Creek lined with whispering pine trees.

They encourage visitors to hike through the beautiful countryside or take advantage of the great fishing. The peaceful surroundings are the natural habitat of deer and other wildlife. They advertise the farm as a central location to Raystown Lake, Blue Know Ski Resort, historic Bedford Village and the famous Horseshoe Curve.

Don and Dottie last summer advertised in Delaware and Washington D.C. newspapers, but this year are counting on the directory and their own brochure. They are always prepared for guests no matter what time of year. They hope to appeal to not only summer vacationers, but also to skiers and hunters.

They are pleased with the response to their new business.

"I think it has a good start," comments Dottie. "Right away I thought I was going to be full every week and how will I get all the linens washed? I don't need to worry about that, yet," she joked.

Friends encourage the warm and friendly woman to expect better business each year of operation. It took several years for a nearby farm family to finally fill their farmhouse for the summer.

"A Lancaster County couple told us they turned away 1,200 people," repeats an amazed Dottie.

It is easy to see that Dottie is enthused as she relates the arrival of her very first guests.

"I told them how to get to our place. Our son lives on the next farm. He called to tell me that they were there," remembers Dottie. "I was so excited. I jumped in the car and went down, but forgot the keys to the house," she laughs.

New York City was the home of the grandparents who arrived on the farm for the 4th of July. Their daughter from Delaware and her two young daughters joined them.

"The adults thought it was heaven," she recalls. "They didn't want to go anywhere. They just wanted to sit, but the granddaughters were bored. Finally they all started exploring and went to Lake Raystown."

Don admits that their first experience was an education.

Dottie adds, "We never thought about kids not having anything to do. We put up a swing for them and bought a little swimming pool and games."

The girls were around five and six years old, in a very different environment, and not the exploring tomboy type, she said.

A Washington family spent a

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Visitors are invited to visit the barn while vacationing in New Enterprise. The Replogles milk 150 Holsteins on their 500-acre farm. City people have a chance to milk cows, feed calves, gather eggs or assist with other farm chores

Homestead Notes