

Farm vacation host families share knowledge with other farmers seeking income supplement

BY MARY MAXWELL
Staff Correspondent

STATE COLLEGE — It isn't often that those who run a successful business are willing to share their secrets of success with potential competitors. But that's what happened at a recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Farm Vacation Association in the typical farmers-cooperating-with-farmers spirit.

Farm Vacation host families are eager to have other farm families experience what they describe as "terrific." They invited prospective farm vacation host families to come to their spring meeting held at the South Ridge Motor Inn.

Members with extensive experience — 36 years in the case of Lucy and Jane Gangloff — provided valuable information to others who were looking for a supplement to farm income.

Several women found that it was the ideal part-time job. They could stay at home and do what they do best—provide good meals and comfortable lodging for guests.

"It works well for a mother with children at home," reported Joyce Renshaw who operates Rennell Farm. "We used to all go hiking and swimming with the guests when the children were at home. But now I send a Sullivan County vacation brochure with the reservation confirmation and expect guests to plan their own days."

Prospective hosts had questions about the amount of time hosting guests would require. If there are not children at home to help with laundry, cleaning and cooking, veteran members suggested hiring a teenager to help.

Some host families want to be involved with their guests throughout the day. Others, particularly those in the southeast corner of the state, find guests like

to be on their own but appreciate a quiet, rural home to come back to after a day of sightseeing.

The flexibility of the operation appealed to many. "Even though we're open year-round," said Alberetta Wanner who lives with her family on a 245-acre dairy farm, "July and August are our busy months and again during the hunting season here in Tioga County. That suits us."

Joseph Cardenuto, representing Penn State's Department of Agriculture Economics and Rural Sociology, co-sponsor of the workshop with the Farm Vacation Association, discussed advertising with the group.

Steve Williams, photographer for Ag Communication on the campus, showed how a good picture in the Pennsylvania Farm Vacation Directory can promote business.

He was followed by Sam Wasson, an insurance agent. Wasson urged old and new group members to re-evaluate their insurance coverage. He believes a farm owner's policy without special endorsements or a farm owner's comprehensive personal liability policy are not adequate.

Because of liability concerns, the audience agreed that they would be less likely to invite guests to help with farm work when it involves potentially hazardous equipment. This was a change from a farm vacation tradition of involving guests in all aspects of farm life.

New families asked how to handle problems and Cardenuto suggested that hosts, "Spell out acceptable and unacceptable behavior as soon as the guests arrive. Tell them about the electric fences, which animals can be approached and which can not. If an agreement is reached right away, then you will just need to remind them later."

Association members reported very few guests they would not invite back. Many reported becoming warm friends with guest families.

"We've been invited by our guests to visit Long Island and Florida," said one participant. "We think of it as our vacation too," said another Association member. "The whole family looks forward to having visitors from maybe the state of Washington one week and then from Japan the next. It's rewarding and educational for us as well as our guests."

Others saw benefits for the agricultural community, as well. Non-farm guests see how uncertain farm life is. What happens when there's too much rain or not enough. "I know this summer, particularly, there will be lots of discussion at the supper table with guests about farm problems," speculated a dairy farmer host.

The group urged families thinking about becoming farm vacation hosts to join the Association. Not only does it provide advertising for members but an evaluation when a team visits newly-established host farms to help foresee problems or sooth anxiety about the new venture.

This on-the-farm consultation occurs before a farm vacation site is listed in the annual directory. The Association's current directory is available free from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

"Pennsylvania farm families are fortunate to be located where they are", said Cardenuto. "They have lovely, peaceful farms located within easy traveling distance of major urban areas. Farm vacations is a good business to get into."

Volunteers study farm accident rescue techniques

BY MARY MAXWELL
Staff Correspondent

UNIVERSITY PARK — Sixty Pennsylvania emergency care and rescue volunteers will be better able to handle farm accidents because of a four-day training course. When they return to their hometowns, they will know rescue techniques which prevent further injury to farm accident victims while preventing injury to the rescuer.

Course instructors Dennis Murphy, Agricultural Extension safety specialist and David Lindstrom, director of Penn State's Office of Emergency Medical Services, combine their experience and knowledge to make rescue effective and safe. Murphy and Lindstrom use a varied format of instruction: video tape presentations ("We can't dismantle farm equipment at every workshop," says Murphy), graphics to point out rescue techniques, workbooks, and hands-on experience with farm equipment.

Last Saturday the course focused on tractor accidents. Participants first studied tapes on tractor operations, tractor overturns and PTO accidents, then they operated tractors to develop familiarity with those machines.

On Sunday the group again viewed tapes, now on rescue techniques involving conventional balers, large round balers and silage wagons. In the afternoon the participants examined that equipment with the instructors to reinforce learning from the video tapes.

The rescue volunteers will

return to the Penn State campus on April 19th for two more days of in-class instruction and field experience. At that time they will study rescue techniques for accidents involving manure storage, grain bins, silos, cornpickers and combines.

Participants who successfully

pass all examinations will be certified as agricultural rescue technicians by the Pennsylvania Department of Health as part of the state's comprehensive rescue certification program. These rescue volunteers will join others trained in the past nine years to help Pennsylvania farm accident victims.



Mike Koon, equipment instructor and director of Seven Mountains Emergency Medical Services points out features on a round baler that hinder rescue operations.

See your nearest
NEW HOLLAND

Dealer for Dependable
Equipment and Dependable
Service:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Annville, PA
B H M Farm
Equipment, Inc
R D 1
717-867 2211 | Littitz, PA
Roy A Brubaker
700 Woodcrest Ave
717-626-7766 |
| Beavertown, PA
B&R Farm
Equipment, Inc
R D 1, Box 217A
717-658-7024 | Loysville, PA
Paul Shovers, Inc
Loysville, PA
717 789-3117 |
| Belleville, PA
Ivan J Zook
Farm Equipment
Belleville, Pa
717-935 2948 | Lynnport, PA
Kermit K Kistler, Inc
Lynnport, PA
215-298-2011 |
| Carlisle, PA
Paul Shovers, Inc
35 East Willow Street
717-243-2686 | Martinsburg, PA
Forshey's, Inc
110 Forshey St
814-793-3791 |
| Chambersburg, PA
Clugston
Implement Inc
R D 1
717 263 4103 | Mill Hall, PA
Paul A Dotterer
R D 1
717 726 3471 |
| Daidsburg, PA
George N Gross, Inc
R D 2, Dover, PA
717 292 1673 | New Holland, PA
A B C Groff, Inc
110 South Railroad
717 354 4191 |
| Elizabethtown, PA
Messick Farm
Equipment Inc
Rt 283 Rheem's Exit
717 367 1319 | New Park, PA
M&R Equipment Inc
P O Box 16
717 993 2511 |
| Everett, PA
C Paul Ford & Son
R D 1
814 652 2051 | Oley, PA
C J Wonsidler Bros
R D 2
215 987 6257 |
| Gettysburg, PA
Yingling Implements
R D 9
717 359 4848 | Pitman, PA
Marlin W Schreffler
Pitman, PA
717 648 1120 |
| Greencastle, PA
Meyers
Implement's Inc
400 N Antrim Way
P O Box 97
717 597 2176 | Quakertown, PA
C J Wonsidler Bros
R D 1
215-536 1935 |
| Grove City, PA
McDowell Farm
Implement Co
Rt 173 North
814-786 7955 | Quarryville, PA
C E Wiley & Son, Inc
101 South Lime Street
717 786-2895 |
| Halifax, PA
Sweigard Bros
R D 3, Box 13
717-896-3414 | Ringtown, PA
Ringtown Farm
Equipment
Ringtown PA
717-889-3184 |
| Hamburg, PA
Shartlesville
Farm Service
R D 1 Box 1392
215-488 1025 | Tamaqua, PA
Charles S Snyder Inc
R D 3
717-386 5954 |
| Honey Brook, PA
Dependable Motor Co
East Main Street
215 273-3131
215 273 3737 | West Chester, PA
M S Yearsley & Son
114-116 East
Market Street
215-696-2990 |
| Honey Grove, PA
Norman D Clark
& Son, Inc
Honey Grove PA
717 734 3682 | West Grove, PA
S G Lewis & Son Inc
R D 2, Box 66
215-869-2214 |
| Hughesville, PA
Farnsworth Farm
Supplies, Inc
103 Cemetery Street
717 584 2106 | Churchville, MD
Walter G Coale Inc
2849 53
Churchville Rd
301 734 7722 |
| Lancaster, PA
L H Brubaker Inc
350 Strasburg Pike
717 397 5179 | Washington, NJ
Frank Rymon & Sons
201-689 1464 |
| Lebanon, PA
Keller Bros
Tractor Co
R D 7 Box 405
717 949 6501 | Woodstown, NJ
Owen Supply Co
Broad Street &
East Avenue
609 769 0308 |