

Two York County Farms Gear Up For Free Farm Tour

BY JOYCE BUPP
York Co. Correspondent
STEWARTSTOWN — Two Stewartstown area farmers are gearing up to welcome an estimated 1,000 visitors on June 20, as hosts for the Eighth Annual Free Farm Tour, sponsored by the York County Farmers Association. Rolling out the proverbial red carpet for the mostly urban visitors will be Barton's Fruit Farm and the Anderson Dairy Farm.

Headquarters for the tour is at Barton's Fruit Farm. From there, visitors will board hay wagons for a scenic tour of the southern York County countryside and the An-

derson dairy farming operation. Tour guides on each wagon explain the farms' operations and crop productions seen along the hayride route.

Fruit production is a long-time tradition at Barton's Fruit Farms, just south of Stewartstown. Neatly-manicured orchards surround the present modern retail market and bakeshop, operated by John S. and Norma M. Barton and their son Richard.

John's father, John C. Barton, and a partner purchased the orchard operation in 1941. After earning his college degree in 1952, John S. joined his dad in business, becoming a partner in 1965.

Originally, the orchard was primarily engaged in wholesaling, packing and sending apples and peaches to markets all over the East Coast. In recent years, retailing has become the major focus of the 250-acre operation. And, although total acreage is somewhat less than in past decades, the crops are more diversified.

Apples and peaches continue as mainstay crops, with smaller plantings of cherries, pears, plums and nectarines. In 1979, the Bartons expanded the farm market, and began adding more vegetables to their line of fresh items. The addition of a greenhouse to the farm in 1975 expanded the retail line to include bedding annuals, started vegetable plants, hanging baskets and mixed decorative pots. Success of the bedding plant line resulted in the addition of three more greenhouses in the ensuing years.

The Bartons' son, Richard, became a partner in 1981 in the expanding, diversifying, family business. He oversees the orchard production work, Norma works primarily with the retail market, and John can often be found supervising greenhouse operations along with tending to the endless details of such a family farm business.

A bake shop is the latest addition to the market, installed less than two years ago, and already through a third expansion in size. Cider, jams, jellies and home-canned peaches and plums, eggs, home-dressed capons and turkeys at holiday seasons, and even a consignment country-crafts corner, make for an attractive and successful farm retailing venture.

Anderson

Milk production is the focus Anderson's dairy farm, owned and operated by James and Mabel Anderson and their son, James Jr. School-age daughter, Diane, also lends a hand at chores when needed.



Although fruit is still the mainstay, bedding plants sales is a more recent addition to the retail line at Barton's Fruit Farm, operated by John and Richard Barton.



James Anderson Sr. and Jr., operate a 50-head milking herd and 100-acre crops farm near Stewartstown, which will be open for Farm Tour visitors on June 20.

Anderson grew up on this family farm, which his father purchased about 1930. Initially the farm included a dairy herd, later phased out. Jim and Mabel returned dairying to the family farm, when they began shipping milk in 1968 with 15 head.

Today, the herd numbers 50, primarily Holsteins and a few Brown Swiss, milked in tie stanchions in a traditional bank barn stable. Production from the herd is marketed through Dairymen Inc.

Crops on the farm's 100 acres, plus some extra rented hay ground, include corn, hay, wheat, barley and oats, primarily for use in feeding the milking herd and replacement young stock.

Visitors, especially youngsters,

will find special attraction in the farm's baby calves and domestic poultry, including ducks and geese enjoying the nearby meadowland. A pair of riding horses and a few feeder hogs round out the variety of animals at the Anderson farm.

Tour wagons will begin departing the Barton Farm headquarters at 10 a.m., and will continue through 4 p.m., as weather and crowds warrant. Among the special events included at the tour headquarters will be agri-displays and demonstrations, country food and crafts, drawing for a hand-made quilt, petting zoo by local 4-H'ers, and commodity queens.

Barton's Fruit Farm is located on Route 24, south of Stewartstown, and accessible from Exit 1 of Interstate 83, via Route 851.

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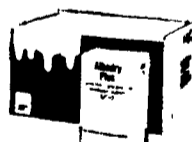
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