

Kids Korner

EE-I-EE-I...Go!

Cherry-Crest Farm Expands To 10 Acres Of Fun For The Whole Family

PARADISE (Lancaster Co.) — The art of the maze is taken very seriously at Cherry-Crest Farm, a working Holstein dairy operation in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country that each year transforms a five-acre cornfield into one of America's most intriguing labyrinths of paths.

Corny renderings have been made of the Liberty Bell, Noah's Ark, an Amish buggy, a huge locomotive, even the solar system. This year the maze reflects the classic song Old MacDonald's Farm, with a gigantic barn, silo, windmill and tractor neatly cut out of rows of corn.

Open July 7 through October 27, Cherry-Crest Farm has expanded its roster of activities into three venues — the barnyard and the courtyard, and the sixth annual Amazing Maize Maze™ as the headline event. More than a walk through the stalks, Cherry-Crest's maze is the world's largest interactive game with music, kernels of knowledge and a script, scenic bridges, clues and a puzzle map to find the quickest way out, an Amish phone booth (hidden in an out-house!) and Telestalks™ to call for help, and two maze masters to keep visitors on track.

"Our goal," states Maze Manager Rudy Kilgore, "is to make each year's design an extraordinary experience — a maze that is fun and educational, and genuinely ties into the quality of life on the farm."

In addition to solving the maze (this year visitors can choose be-

tween an easy or difficult challenge), Old MacDonald's Farm offers amusing diversions along the way, from a misting station to cool off, rubber duck races and a pig calling contest, a cow that can be milked like the Real McCoy, a tractor and a "hay mow" for climbing, a silo for sliding, a telescope to search for clues in the hillside, even a corral of saddled wooden horses that educates and is fun for family photographs.

The phone booth also comes in handy for clues, as visitors can call the maze office for a recording, or a friend who can use a special code to locate a "You are here" on the maze's web site. A web cam also gives web browsers sneak peaks of maze activities.

And there's still more to see and do. In the courtyard there's the Furry Friends Petting Farm where Daisy the Goat remains a star attraction, a Hands-On Farm Ed Center with interactive displays and live baby chicks hatchery, a Kids' Corral for outdoor play, the Rain Room, plus great rides like the Moon Trike Maze, Cherry-Crest Farm Express, and Hee-Haw Hay Ride that includes guided tours of the 175-acre working dairy and poultry operation.

On an adjoining hillside is the Barnyard, with the popular Hay Jump Tent, Pumpkin Slinger and Giant Hay Chute Slide, a scenic farm-view walk, and Cherry-Crest's famous floral artwork — this year an 11,000 square foot "Crowing Rooster and Sun"

that's created out of thousands of petunias and marigolds. There are six minute milk mazes that are real brain teasers, and food and picnic areas. During September and October, the Barnyard is also home to the Fall Farm Market, where visitors can pull an express wagon through four acres of pumpkins, popcorn, and a field of 27 different varieties of beautiful mums to pick and take home.

There's also a great schedule of special events — from Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls to lively Dairy and Corn Exhibitions, a series of Saturday Harvest Roundup Festivals, plus a scenic place to walk and enjoy a picnic and the beautiful Lancaster County countryside. You can even catch a ride to the maze aboard the historic Strasburg Railroad's short line steam train that stops at Cherry-Crest Farm throughout the day.

Location: Cherry-Crest Farm is ideally situated in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country about eight miles east of Lancaster off of Rt. 741 — two miles east of Strasburg, Paradise Township. Plenty of free parking is available adjacent to the maze.

Summer hours (July 7 through Aug. 31) are: Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. until dusk. Fall hours (Sept. 1-Oct. 27 including all legal holiday Mondays) are: Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. until dusk, Legal Holiday Mondays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. During September and October, visitors can also trek through four acres of pumpkins

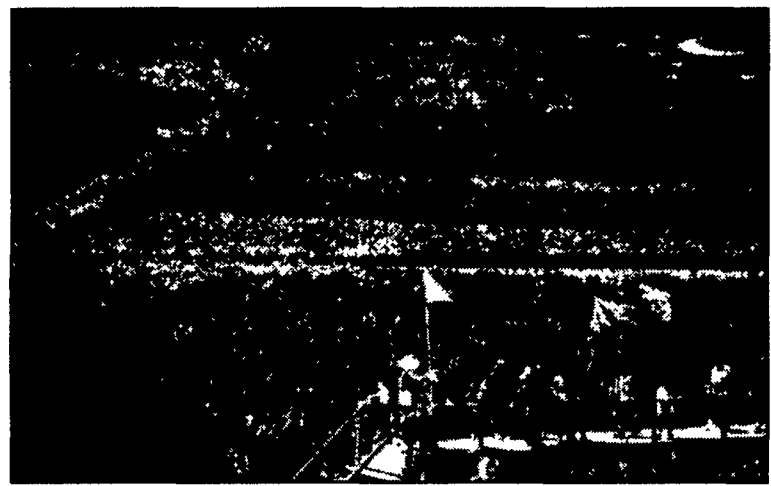
and a field of 27 different varieties of mums, as part of Cherry-Crest Farm's "Pick Your Own To Take Home" (Sept. 7-Oct. 27) Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. until dusk.

Open weather permitting. Last entrance to the maze 90 minutes prior to closing. Cherry-Crest Farm is closed Sundays.

Admission to the farm (includes the maze plus all activities in the courtyard and barnyard) is \$9.50 (age 12 and over), \$7.50 for kids age 5 to 11, \$5 for kids age 3-4. Last entrance to maze 90 minutes prior to closing. The popular Flashlight Maze is held Oct. 19-20 and Oct. 26-27, 7-11

p.m. The only time the maze is open after dark, the Flashlight Maze offers a fright-free alternative to Halloween. (Make sure to bring your own flashlights!).

For more information and a free brochure, call or write: Cherry-Crest Farm, 150 Cherry Hill Road, Ronks, PA 17572. Telephone: (717) 687-6843. Fax: (717) 687-8143. Or check the web, at www.cherrycrestfarm.com. There is also a two-unit guest house that incorporates a large play area and private zoo for the kids. The maze is available for school tours, corporate team building and company picnics, birthdays and private parties.



Old MacDonald's Farm sets the theme for this year's Amazing Maize Maze™ at Cherry-Crest Farm in Lancaster County. Billed as the world's largest interactive game, the five acre mind boggler includes music, script and clues, plus a full roster of down-home activities from hayrides and pumpkin slinging to a Furry Friends Petting Farm and Hands-On Farm Ed Center. Cherry-Crest is also famous for its gigantic floral hillside artwork, like the 11,000 square foot Sun, Moon and Stars shown above that was created out of petunias and marigolds.

Pennies Add Up To Thousands For Charity

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Correspondent
BREEZEWOOD (Bedford Co.) — How large is a million?

It's a question to which the students in grades kindergarten through 12 at Breezewood Elementary needed an answer.

Breezewood is a rural school with a census ranging from 120 to 140. Being small, grades are able to work on various projects together.

The teachers thought about the million question and came up with various ideas. One thought of a million pull tabs, another a million bottle caps. "But that kind of collection had no real purpose," says Cathy Clark, second grade teacher at Breezewood.

When someone suggested a million pennies, Cathy liked the idea so well, she volunteered to chair the project.

A million pennies total \$10,000 and the next decision to be made was, "What will we do with \$10,000?"

Students and teachers together decided to donate \$5,000 to charity and \$5,000 would be saved for a school project.

During the next seven years, the students raised pennies by having pizza parties, Sunday parties, popcorn parties, baby picture contests, a pie in the face contest, and carnivals with a

dunking booth, sand art, ring toss, and food booths.

"We did almost anything we could think of to raise pennies," Cathy says.

The lessons learned were used in math, social studies, community services, decision making and self-esteem.

On Sunday afternoons, Cathy, her husband, Jim, and several other volunteers would get to-

gether to count the pennies and transport them to the bank where the Breezewood Elementary account was rapidly growing. Cathy laughingly admits she became almost addicted to pennies.

"I warned my husband that any change in the washing machine was fair game," she says.

On a shopping trip she was delighted to find nearly 40 pennies scattered about a parking lot.

This past spring, the goal of one million pennies was achieved with WTAJ television personality Carolyn Donaldson putting in the last penny.

An assembly complete with cake and punch highlighted the event with the children presenting checks to their favorite charities. Included with the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, the American Red Cross,

the American Cancer Society, the Bedford County Humane Society and DARE.

Each organization was presented with a \$1000 large plastic covered check for hanging and a small paper check for banking. Students presented a program with cutouts, hats and other props. They had bits of philosophy and quaint bits of verse to add to the presentations.

Teachers helping with the production of this program as well as raising the pennies were Miriam Peck, Bev Young, Carol Wichterman, Jim Droz, and Kris Troutman.

Students from each grade reaching up to senior status were also present. They were happy to see the completion of the project they started in their early elementary years.

Twenty-four percent of the total was raised the first year, 17 percent in the second; 15 percent in the third; 12 percent in the fourth; 15 percent in the fifth; 12 percent in the sixth; and the remaining 5 percent during this past year.

Cathy Clark's husband, Jim, emceed the event and pointed out that an average of \$16,873 was raised during each nine month school year. That equals 794 pennies per day; 113 pennies per hour, or 28 cents every 15 minutes of each school year.



Breezewood Elementary students donated \$1,000 to DARE to combat drug usage.