

# Four Wynds Farm To Host Farm-City Day In Tioga County

WELLSBORO (Tioga Co.) — The 11th Annual Farm-City Day for Tioga and Bradford counties will be conducted Saturday, July 13 at Four Wynds Farm, owned by Elwin and Charlene Fitch between Ogdensburg and Canton. This event is designed to have something for everyone while being educational and fun for all ages.

For the youngsters, there will be a pedal tractor contest which uses tractors specially designed for pulling. All youth four years of age through 12 years old are



A determined youngster competing in the pedal tractor pulling contest, a popular kid's event at the Tioga/Bradford Counties Farm-City Day. This picture was taken at the 1999 Farm-City Day at the Ogden Farm in Lawrenceville.

invited to participate and try this "feet" at pedaling a tractor geared to move weights on a sled behind the tractor. Also, the ever-popular "Children's Barn" will feature a variety of animals brought by 4-H youth. There will also be a hay maze for kids to walk off some of their energies.

For the adults, there will be modern as well as antique machinery displays, demonstrations involving sheep shearing, wool spinning, and horseshoeing. A veterinarian will be on hand to discuss bio security issues along with countless other exhibits and displays.

Food stands include: Ogdensburg Church of Christ Youth, hot dogs, sloppy joes, ice tea, lemonade, and coffee; the Blossburg Kiwanis, barbecue chicken halves; the Tioga County Fair Association, homemade pies; and the Bradford County Dairy Promotion Committee, milkshakes, ice cream, and milk.

One of the first things visitors will notice at the Four Wynds Farm is the breeze, even if the sun is out and the temperatures are typical of July weather. Four Wynds Farm got its name from the winds that continue to blow from all four directions. On any given day, there is a breeze blowing across the farmstead.

The original farm was purchased in 1899 by Elwin's great-grandfather and consisted of 80 acres. Elwin grew up on this very farm whereas Charlene grew up on a farm not too far away. They were married in 1976. That same year, Elwin and Charlene purchased the farm from Elwin's father, making them the fourth generation to farm here. Four Wynds Farm has been designated a Century Farm (meaning it is a farm owned consecutively for 100 years by members of the same family).

Their present farming operation consists of 259 acres. They rent an additional 300 acres from Charlene's mother, Phyllis Clegg. Their son, Bryan, is currently milking cows at the Clegg farm while helping his father with cropping

here at home.

Elwin and Charlene have 85 Holsteins and 10 Jerseys in their present herd. They raise corn and oats in rotation with alfalfa and mixed hay. Corn is harvested as silage and stored in their 16-foot by 50-foot concrete stave silo. Hay is harvested as small square bales. Their feeding ration consists of silage hay plus grain purchased as mixed feed from both Rockwells and Pennfield.

Cows are milked two times each day in a 48-stanchion barn. The Fitch family raises their own dairy replacements which is one of the reasons Bryan is milking at the Clegg farm today. Elwin and Charlene had a large number of heifer calves approximately two years ago. They were then faced with the wonderful "problem" of selling off these heifers, culling their own cows to make room for the new animals at their home barn, or setting Bryan up at his grandmother's farm and allowing him to milk his "own herd."

Elwin and Charlene have their cows tested by the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) each month. During the test, each cow's milk is sampled and weighed. The results of this testing helps Elwin make decisions regarding feed and health issues for each animal. There will be a station at Farm-City Day where you can learn more about DHIA.

Elwin and Charlene Fitch have three children and one grandson. Bryan is the youngest of their three children and their only son. He graduated in June from Canton Area High School and plans to be the fifth generation farmer to own Four Wynds Farm. Bryan enjoys collecting farm toys and will have a large model farm for you to see at Farm-City Day.

Their daughter Laura is married to Brett Taylor and currently lives in Allenwood. She served as the 1993 Tioga County dairy princess and was the 1995 Tioga County fair queen. Laura is employed by Whitdeer Run but helps her parents on the farm when needed.

Daughter Lisa is married to James Driscoll and currently lives on the next road over from

the farm. She served as the 1996 Tioga County dairy princess and was the 1997 Pennsylvania alternate dairy princess. She is employed by Guthrie Clinic and helps on the farm when possible. Lisa and James are the parents of a son, Corbin Driscoll.

Elwin is kept very busy with his farm activities. All work is done by the family making this operation a true family farm. Charlene is the postmistress at the Morris Run Post Office. In their limited spare time, Elwin likes to do carpentry work while Charlene enjoys working with flowers and spoiling their grandson. She has also been a 4-H leader for 15 years and as such has been at many of the previous Farm-City Day events in the food booth.

People attending Farm-City Day at Four Wynds Farm will be helping to make history as 2002 marks the joining of Tioga and Bradford counties in their Farm-City efforts. Bradford County has previously held three events: in 1993 and 1994 at Merle and Leslie Wanck's farm in Ulster and in 1995 at Brackman's Guernsey farm near Canton. We are looking forward to this relationship as next year Bradford County hosts Farm-City Day with it returning to Tioga County in 2004.

Special activities taking place for the first time in 2002 include the "Pennsylvania Wood Mobile" — a walk-through, traveling exhibit that provides information on the state's forest resource and forest products industry. Rolling Acres Lawn Garden Equipment will be giving a demonstration on 4-wheeler safety. At the time of this publication, a cookies and milk promotion is being planned with Mrs. Fields' cookies and lots of cold, fresh milk.

Activities planned each year that have not been previously mentioned are the wagon tours, ice cream eating contest, milking

demonstration, Christmas tree exhibit and T-shirt sales. Tioga County has a limited number of Farm-City T-shirts still available as souvenirs at \$10 each. Proceeds from the sale of these T-shirts will help to fund this event in future years.

Farm-City Day is free and open to the public. Concession stands will sell food and souvenir T-shirts. Activities will begin at 11 a.m. with Tim McBride serving as master of ceremonies. Senator Roger Madigan will present a brief message during the opening ceremonies. Activities will conclude at 4 p.m. This event will be held rain or shine.

Directions to the farm located very close to the Tioga-Bradford-Lycoming County lines:

From Wellsboro: Take Rt. 287 south to Morris. From Morris take Route 414 east through Liberty. Follow Rt. 414 east through Ogdensburg for approximately two miles. Watch for signs taking you straight off Rt. 414 to the farm.

From Williamsport: Take Route 15 north to the Trout Run exit. Follow Rt. 14 north. Pass the Our House Restaurant. Turn left on Preston Road (first left past the restaurant). Take the second left-hand turn to the farm.

From Canton: Take Route 14 south from Canton. Pass Landon's Cedar Ledge. Take third road to right (Preston Road). Take the second left-hand turn to the farm.

For further information, contact Sherri Butters at (570) 724-4812, ext. 2 in Tioga County; Wayne Pratt at (570) 297-4220 in Bradford County, or the Fitch family at (570) 673-3426. Persons interested in having a display or an exhibit should contact Earle Robbins at the Tioga County Cooperative Extension Service at (570) 724-9120.

## Guide To Virginia's Horse Country Available

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia is for horse lovers — residents and visitors alike. "A Guide to Virginia's Horse Country" provides a resource for the wide variety of equestrian activities available in the state.

The free guide offers informa-

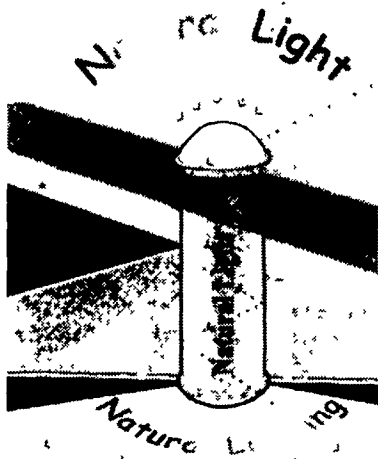
tion about sport and recreation opportunities for horse lovers, and much more. The guide covers trail rides, races, shows, sales, events, boarding, breeding, training, camping, riding instruction, equine medical care, riding apparel, tack, publications, organizations, museums, and hospitable accommodations for both horses and riders visiting the state.

In addition, there are facts about the four-century history and rich heritage of the horse in Virginia, the substantial impact of the equine industry on the state's economy, and the work that is under way to ensure a bright future for horses, owners and the businesses which serve them.

To obtain a free copy of the guide, call 1-877-TROT2VA. To request the guide in quantity (five or more), call Andrea Heid, program manager for the Virginia Horse Industry Board, at (804) 786-5842.

Learn more about the Virginia horse industry at the Website sponsored by the Virginia Horse Industry Board at [www.virginiahorse.com/VHIB/vhib.html](http://www.virginiahorse.com/VHIB/vhib.html).

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