

**Family Living  
Focus**

by  
**Sue Giachero**  
Berks County  
Extension Agent



**Family Camping**

Looking for some fun family times where bugs and dirt are always included? Consider a camping trip. Whether you take a tent or a trailer, there are many nearby spots to choose from where your family can set up house-keeping for a day, a week, or even longer.

Why would you want to spend time planning and packing to leave the comforts of home to sleep near the ground and share a bathroom with strangers?

It's because of the magic moments that can happen when you are spending time with your children in nature, of course!

Time spent camping allows families to slow down, leave televisions, telephones, and computers behind and focus on one another. Children's imaginations can open up and take on a whole new dimension when they leave the toys of home behind and use the resources around them to create their fun.

Camping provides a great

stage for creating family legends and folklore that can be shared for generations to come. What better way to record these future memories than with a camping journal. Journals can be kept by individual family members or by the family collectively. Along with narratives of family exploits, your journal can include post-cards, photographs, drawings, or even treasures found on outings.

Campgrounds come with all sorts of amenities and price tags. State parks are a great, affordable resource for campers. Each has some unique aspects that you will want to explore. What a great way to get to know your own state! Camping close to home can make the experience even more enjoyable for young children as they don't have to sit for hours in a car. Camping is also a great way for your family to form some new friendships with other campers. The skills that children learn from approaching and introducing themselves to other chil-

dren at campgrounds can be used throughout their lifetimes. They may also find that these new friendships will follow them right into adulthood.

It takes some planning and preparation ahead of time to make your time away run smoothly. I have found it much easier when I keep all of our needed gear close at hand and easy to pack in plastic bins. The only thing we need to add for each trip is our clothing and food.

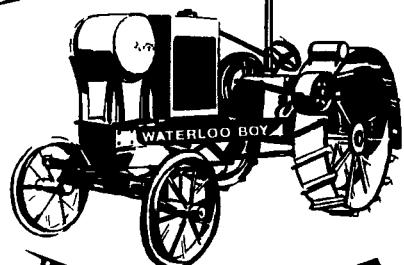
I also keep a running list while we are camping so I can keep track of those things we forgot or wish we had so that our next trip is even better.

Meals are another area that can be made easier with prepara-

tion. There are many cookbooks and Websites catering to campers. Including the entire family in meal planning, preparation, and cleanup is a great opportunity for family fun. Keep track of meals that are winners and soon you will be able to create your own family camping cookbook.

If you haven't tried a family camping trip, I encourage you to consider a weekend trip. When the cold winter winds begin to blow, your family will be able to recall the warm summer breezes and sounds of nature from your camping nights. The bugs and dirt won't even be remembered as you dream of your next family get-away to the great outdoors.

**WATERLOO  
BOYS**



**13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
ALL JOHN DEERE SHOW**

A display of antique John Deere farming equipment, tools and literature seldom seen. Garden tractor parade and pull July 25. Antique John Deere Two-cylinder Tractor races, games, parade, fun tractor pull, Kids tractor pull July 26. Unique toy tractor display, numerous vendors and demonstrations.

**JULY 25 & 26, 2003**  
**OPENS JULY 25 AT 12:15 PM**  
**OPENS JULY 26 AT 8:15 AM**  
**ADMISSION: \$5.00**  
**ROUGH & TUMBLE GROUNDS**  
**ROUTE 30 KINZERS, PENNSYLVANIA 17535**

**Kummet mit eure emer**

*"Come with your buckets*

**zu Schneider Kaunty,**

*to Snyder County*

**die blaubeeren sind zeitig!**

*The blueberries are ripe!"*

Open 7:30 am to 7:30 pm

- Pick your own blueberries in your containers.
- Call for picking days
- Please initial your containers
- No Sunday calls

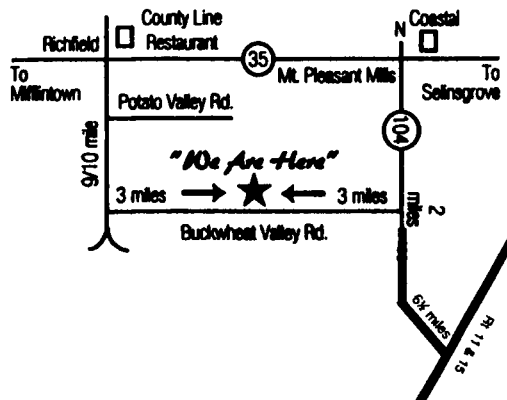
**90¢** LB.

**Buckwheat Valley Produce**  
*"Fresh Produce In Season"*



Lloyd & Barbara Sauder Family  
R.D. #2, Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA 17853  
(570) 539-2272

Asparagus • Rhubarb  
Strawberries  
Red & Black Raspberries  
Blueberries • Blackberries



**SUSQUEHANNA  
PRINTING**

- Wedding Invitations
- Brochures
- Business Cards
- Sale Cards
- Catalogs
- Newsletters
- Newspapers



Arl Haas  
One East Main Street  
P.O. Box 527, Ephrata, PA 17522  
717-733-6397 • Fax 717-733-6058



**SHIRTS  
OR  
SWEATSHIRTS**



**Shirts**

**Sweatshirts**

- 100% Cotton Denim Long Sleeve
- Embroidery Blue & Black
- Lancaster Farming Logo
- Button-Down Collar
- Left Shirt Pocket
- Stone Bleach Blue
- 90% cotton - dark Blue with embroidery With Lancaster Farming Logo
- \$25 - Medium, Large
- \$27.50 - X Large
- \$28.50 - 2X Large
- \$20 - Small, Medium, Large
- \$22.50 - X Large
- \$23.50 - 2X Large

Plus \$4.50 Shipping & Handling Costs

Phone 717-721-4416 Or Mail Your Order To:  
**Lancaster Farming P.O. box 609LFS**  
1 East Main St., Ephrata, PA 17522

Or Stop @ Office - 1 East Main St., Ephrata, PA  
Saves Shipping Cost!