

Bee Family Centennial Farm Museum

2009 Annual Report

The Bee Family Centennial Farm Museum is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization established in 2005 to preserve the architecture and artifacts of the Bee Farm while educating the public on farming life and methods past and present. The farming history of Northern Colorado will be shared with others in a traditional, engaging and authentic way.

2009 Board Members

President: Liz Harrison, Secretary: Eva Wallace, Treasurer: Philip Bee, Adam Thomas, Cindy Harris joined the board this fall and replaced Bette Blinde.

The National Register Designation was amended this year to change the 1942 house and garage to non-contributing buildings since they have been moved. We continue to work on the Historic Structures Assessment.

The Fort Collins Historical Society presented the farm with their Historic Preservation & Restoration Award.

Poudre School Dist. has done a second video for us with interviews with Bob Bee , Philip Bee, and Liz Harrison. We would like to thank Linda Lloyd for hosting it.

Visitors

We had 682 total visitors, which includes 113 Friday and Sat visitors, 6 children's groups for 186, 7 adult groups for 105 and 278 for our special events.

Groups

Groups that came to the farm this year included the Wellington Eyestone 2nd grade. The Wellington Alumni Association included us in their activities on Aug 1st.

Events hosted

We joined the Wellington Chamber of Commerce and held an after hours event on June 11.

Events participated in

These included the Fiber Fun Festival at the Ranch and the Victorian Sunday in the Park on June 14. Rich Harrison represented the farm at the Virginia Dale Stage Station Open House and demonstrated some hand tools on June 13. For the July 4th parade in Wellington we did a 'quilting bee' on the back of the truck. We also participated in the Larimer County Fair Parade and even though it rained at the beginning it still went well.

Rice Elementary School invited us to participate in the Raptor Rodeo. We took hand tools to demonstrate and handed out our brochures.

Special Events

We had a special event each month this year:

May 16 - Nash Car Club displayed their cars around the circle drive. It was a beautiful day and we were visited by the North Forty Newspaper.

June 20- Wagon rides with Draft Horses were provided by Dennis Marsh.

July 18 – Student Civil War Re-enactors told about life in the war.

Aug 15- Canning and Food Preservation demonstrations were given by our volunteers.

Sept 19 – Vintage Baseball game was between the Berthoud Blues and the Wellington Buzzards. The Cub Scouts sold concessions.

Oct 17 – At the Scarecrow Festival small prizes were given for carving pumpkins, dressing as a scarecrow, and bringing a scarecrow.

Volunteers

A Policy and Procedure Guide was written and adopted this year. It should be very helpful for new tour guides when situations arise. A volunteer meeting was held this fall and some good suggestions were made for hands-on activities for children.

Thank you to our 14 volunteers who gave about 1400 hours of their time.

Education

The Big Thompson Young Farmers are letting us use their irrigation exhibit where children can try to throw irrigation tubes. Farm play stations were added for small children.

Hands-on children's activities were worked on this winter and should be a good addition.

LeeAnn Bee shared information on Colorado Agriculture which has been put into a notebook to be shared with visitors.

We purchased baby turkeys and guineas, a baby Jersey calf, and two little lambs this year so we would have more animals for people to learn about. Lamb feeding and a Jersey dairy were both important parts of the farm's history.

Collection

2800 items have been cataloged. We accepted three small pieces of machinery to be used for hands-on demonstrations. A meat scale, small recipe book, and two 1951 newspapers were also donated.

Maintenance

Sheds for the sheep pens were made. The picnic area was planted to grass seed this fall and should be a welcome addition. A fence on the south side was added by volunteers from United Way and the 1942 garage was scraped and painted.

Gift Shop

We sold items from 4-5 local crafters.

List of Donors

Township \$1000 and up

Bill and Sylvia Dean

Section \$500-\$1000

Adam Thomas and Cheri Yost

Quarter Section \$250-\$500

North Forty \$100-\$250

Jj Farrell
Gordon Hazard

Marvin and Cindy Becker
Fort Collins Nursery

Acre \$50-\$100

Carol Gregston
Bill and Ruth Dean
Bill and Carol West
Ralph and Mary Bender

Eric and Janice Wilkinson
Loren Maxey
Sam and Sandy Whittier
LeeAnn Bee

Half Acre \$0-\$50

Winifred Schaefer
Kyle, Mary, and Seth Stockton
Amy Hays
Gil and Margareth Merrill

Norm and Donna Brown
Jay and Fran Grooters
David and Carol Budge