

Bee Family Centennial Farm Museum

2014 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.

2014 Board Members

President: Gail Meisner, Secretary: David Harrison, Treasurer: Ginger Montgomery. Gail and Liz will serve another 3 year term. Joan Day has resigned from the board due to health concerns, no one has been found to replace her.

Visitors

The farm museum is open from May through October on Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 to 4:00, and for groups of 10 or more by appointment. This year we had 1568 total visitors. There were 691 Friday and Saturday visitors, 392 visitors from 15 children's groups, and 190 from 8 adult groups. Special Events were attended by 295. There were visitors from 12 states and 4 foreign countries.

Groups

Out of the 15 children's groups the largest was 96 children from the Frederick Summer Camp Program. One group came from Broomfield and we had Girl Scouts and Cub Scout groups. All of the children's groups are always fun as the children learn about hands-on agriculture. The Colorado Foundation for Agriculture held their dinner here for the teachers and host families from their summer Ag Institute. The West Greeley Water Conservation Group also brought a group of teachers in July and a CSU Ag Education class toured in Oct. Other adult groups included the Foothills Genealogy group and Commerce City Senior Center.

Peloton Cycles used the farm parking lot to host two bike races in June.

Events participated in

Since the 4th of July fell on a Friday this year and we were open, we did not have a booth at the Avery House 4th of July Celebration. We did participate in the Wellington Parade with a float with our wooden horse and a plow.

Bob and LeeAnn presented the farm at the "40's Forever" 3 day event at the Loveland airport the end of September.

A group of local history groups has been formed called Colorado Heritage Connect. The goal is to coordinate events and share ideas.

Special Events

We switched dates of our The Pioneer Living Day and Baseball Game this year. The Vintage Base Ball Game was held June 14 in conjunction with a Bee Family Reunion. The Car Club was not able to come, but the Wellington Mom's 'R' Us group sold concessions and Jerry Ross sang and told stories before the game.

The Pioneer Living Day was held September 27 with a good crowd attending. There were fourteen different pioneer skills presented. Ice cream and Lemonade were sold by the Rocky Ridge 4-H Club. We also had 5 vendors and a photo booth. David Harrison made a very nice brochure for the day.

Lunch was served to our presenters and volunteers.

Volunteers

Over 1750 volunteer hours were again given by 10 people to operate the farm museum. Eight guys from CSU Unity came the 5th of April to help clean up and get ready to open. They cleaned up the tumble weeds, raked weeds and moved the tractors around.

The end of July, 6 high school kids came from a National Youth Conference which was held in Fort Collins and oiled some of the harness and put linseed oil on the wooden parts of the old machinery. Three kids volunteered for their community service hours and did yard work and painted the tables. Liz and Rich did tours for our Friday and Saturday visitors and Lee Ann, Gail, Jack, and Karen helped with groups.

Education

An agricultural history timeline was completed and put up this spring.

Animals

We purchased an Angus bull to use with our Angus cow, two Angus heifers and one Jersey heifer. One Angus steer was born. Three Shetland cross lambs were bought, but one of them died. A Duroc pig was also purchased. We got 3 turkeys and 6 buff orpington chicks, one of them is a rooster.

Collection

Loren Maxey donated a tractor and four bottom plow this year. Liz and Eva continued the work on doing an inventory of the household items.

Maintenance

The 1894 house was painted. Some little cherry trees were planted along the east side of the small pens, west of the small apple trees. Some grass that was accidentally sprayed was replaced with sod.

Gift Shop

We added little tractors and little animals for the children's items. The Pioneer Association had their books in the shop again, along with the children's items, promotional items, and crafts.

List of Donors for 2014-2015

Township \$1000 and up

Bill and Sylvia Dean

Section \$500-\$1000

Quarter Section \$250-\$500

Adam Thomas and Cheri Yost

Bette Blinde

Larimer County Farm Bureau

North Forty \$100-\$249

Gordan Hazzard
Richard and Joan Bowen
Carol Gregston
Bob and Janet Winter
Jennifer Lowry
Craig and Angie Beihl
Loren Maxey
Marvin and Cindy Becker

Acre \$50-\$99

Ralph and Mary Bender
Richard and Maxine Tamlin
Jj Farrell
Luetta VerStraeten
Bill and Ruth Dean
Ginger Montgomery

Half Acre \$0-\$49

Karen Riedlinger
Walt and Liv Lyons
Dennis and Jean Lamm
David and Lily Weber
Joan Day
Roger and Sharon Chilson
George and Nancy Wallace
David and Carol Budge
Marjan Lukinic
Mark Johnson – Gilsdorf Automotive
John Stencel III

'Friends' of the Bee Farm 2014

Individual

Barbara Wilson
Doug Ernest
Gail Meisner
Paula Morehouse

Senior Family

Roger and Sharon Chilson
Kate Stieben
Larry and Suzanne Mowery

Family

Richard and Maxine Tamlin

Business

Finish Line Awards
Historitecture
Becker & Becker