

Bee Family Centennial Farm Museum

2015 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.

2015 Board Members

We changed our list of officers a little this year by adding a vice president and combining the office of secretary/treasurer. President: Gail Meisner, Vice President: David Harrison, Secretary/Treasurer: Liz Harrison. Ginger Montgomery also serves on the board and Ryan Dreitz joined the board in February. He is the new FFA teacher at Poudre High School. Ginger and Ryan will serve 3 year terms. The board will also serve as committee heads: Liz for financial, Gail for volunteers, Ginger for educational, and David for marketing.

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 1,065 total visitors. There were 174 Friday and Saturday visitors, 358 visitors from 14 children's groups, and 253 from 15 adult groups. Special Events were attended by 280. There were visitors from 10 states and 3 foreign countries. This is the first year that our visitor numbers have declined. The Friday and Saturday number was down 503 from last year. This is largely because we did not do any discount deals with Living Social or Groupon like we have the last two years.

Groups

We had two children's groups with over 50 children each and a couple day cares that brought multiple groups of children. One group got stuck in traffic and had to cancel and another one showed up unexpectedly. 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. Volunteers from the Welcome Center also held a tour and dinner. The Red Feather Historical Society, FFA students from Poudre High School, and the CSU Ag Education class are adult groups that stand out.

Peloton Cycles used the farm parking lot to host five bike races on Tuesday evenings in June. There apparently were some complaints from neighbors about the races, so will see if they are held in the future.

Events participated in

Rich and Liz had a booth at a Kids Fair put on by the Fit 4 Moms group in April.

Since the 4th of July fell on a Saturday this year and we were open, we did not have a booth at the Avery House 4th of July Celebration, or a float in the Wellington Parade. We did share a booth with David in the afternoon in Wellington.

The local history group called Northern Colorado Heritage Connect is working on a brochure for the members of the group.

Jared Orsi asked if we would do an article on the family and museum for an on-line Colorado encyclopedia that Colorado Humanities is working on. Liz wrote and submitted the article, but we are

waiting to see if it is approved.

A local photographer used the farm for a photo shoot the beginning of May. The baby animals were included in photos.

Special Events

The Vintage Base Ball Game was held June 20 this year. The Model A Car Club had a good showing of cars. Rocky Mountain High School's Civil War Club came and presented history on the Civil War which added a fun element to the day. We also made a special effort to invite veterans to the game. We did our own concessions. Wellington's Taco John's donated 20% of their proceeds to the restroom fund.

The Pioneer Living Day was held September 26 with a good crowd attending. There were eleven different pioneer skills presented. Ice cream and lemonade were sold by the Rocky Ridge 4-H Club. We also had trolley rides and a photo booth. Several Poudre FFA students helped with the children's activities. David Harrison made a very nice brochure for the day. A sack lunch was served to our presenters and volunteers.

Volunteers

Over 1,775 volunteer hours were again given by 12 people to operate the farm museum.

CSU Unity provided 10 students to scrape and paint the trolley wagon on April 25.

Liz and Rich did tours for our Friday and Saturday visitors and Lee Ann, Gail, Jack, and Jane (a new volunteer) helped with groups.

Education

Only some minor changes were made this year to the branding and leather working exhibits. Poudre School District interview LeeAnn, Bob, and Liz for an agricultural video that they are working on.

Animals

We were expecting 4 calves this year, two of them arrived safely and without incident. One had to be pulled and didn't stand up for several days. It was doing better and was put in with the other cows, but got stepped on and had to be put down because its leg was broken. The mother cow was sold. Cocoa, our Jersey cow, developed some problems before her calf was born and was lethargic afterwards. After seeking vet advice we stopped milking her and got her on alfalfa hay instead of grass hay. When she was put in with the bull her teat was stepped on and cut bad enough that she had to be sold. Her calf is a Jersey/Angus cross named Hot Chocolate. A Jersey heifer calf named Daisy was purchased to replace Cocoa, but we will have to wait two more years to get milk. The Angus bull was also sold the end of June. Two white faced lambs, and one pink pig (Pickles) were purchased and kept through the summer. We got 4 turkeys and 6 buff orpington chicks.

Collection

No new items were donated this year.

Maintenance

The roof on the horse barn was replaced this summer. We got enough wood shingles to do the roof on the wood granary but the work hasn't been done yet.

Gift Shop

The Pioneer Association had their books in the shop again, along with the children's items,

promotional items, and crafts. A few additional children's toys were purchased, and a book on the history of Poudre Canyon.

List of Donors for 2015-2016

Township \$1000 and up

Bill and Sylvia Dean
VerStraeten - Farrell

Section \$500-\$1000

Bob and LeeAnn Bee

Quarter Section \$250-\$500

Adam Thomas and Cheri Yost
Bette Blinde
Larimer County Farm Bureau
Judy Bowlby

North Forty \$100-\$249

Gordan Hazzard
Richard and Joan Bowen
Carol Gregston
Bob and Janet Winter
Jennifer Lowry
Bill West
Loren Maxey
Barb Willson
Robert Sievers

Acre \$50-\$99

Ralph and Mary Bender
Tom and Eileen Boardman
Kate Stieben
Marvin and Cindy Becker
David and Carol Budge

Half Acre \$0-\$49

Joyce Bennett
Sharon Matsuda
David and Lily Weber
Mike and Barb Hultgren
Roger and Sharon Chilson
Ema Lukinic
John and Mary Stencil III

'Friends' of the Bee Farm 2015

Individual

Barbara Wilson
Mary Kay Dent
Gail Meisner

Senior Family

John and Marion Stencel
Norm and Donna Brown
Pat Block

Family

Mike and Barb Hultgren

Business

Ralph and Mary Bender