



Hope Springs Farm
Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2013

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Exciting Changes for HSF!

by Ashlee Bargo

Happy November from Hope Springs Farm! It's so hard to believe that summer time is over....it flew by so fast. We are pleased to have Hempfield Behavioral Health as our new agency effective 7/1/13. Since then, a lot has been happening at the farm. We have 14 wonderful staff and 45 hard working growers who have spent the summer working in the garden, learning how to can our produce, making lots of the art projects and caring for the property.

The growers have become more hands on with the daily farm chores, such as mowing and using a rota-tilla to make a cut garden for our herbs; a brand new chicken coop run with the help of a youth group from Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church; custom painting birdhouse gourds for the annual Hope Springs Farm BBQ fundraiser that was held on September 21, 2013; welcoming and

training 14 piglets, building a new permanent pergola in the garden for shade; volunteering at various food banks across Dauphin and Lebanon Counties; baking cookies on a weekly basis for the homeless; and renovating the side pasture run in for the new alpacas that will soon be joining our farm family on 11/18/13.



As we move into winter, we are excited about picking out plants for spring time gardening, as well as continuing to garden and grow fresh produce in our greenhouse. We are also looking forward to new chicks coming in to January, as well as several lambs in the very near future.

Page 1: Get an update from our Program Director, Ashlee Bargo



Page 2: Check out what we have been up to at the farm and our outings in the community



Page 3: A message from HBH President, Dr. Howard Rosen

Page 4: Staff Spotlight: Madison Hartz! See what Madison has to say about HSF



Halloween Party



Visiting an airport hanger



Zumba class



Touring an orchard



Making Crafts



Visiting the pumpkin patch

Check Out What We've Been Up To!



Visiting Lake Tobias



Caring for the piglets



Demolishing the old run



Carving pumpkins



Learning to can vegetables



Picking out pumpkins



Visiting Wildwood Lake

A Message from the President of HBH

by Dr. Howard S. Rosen, Ph.D.

HSF made the transition in managing company to HBH a little more than three months ago, but it feels like we have always been partners. I say that in the most positive light possible. The alignment of vision and purpose with founders, Nina and Neil Rovner, has the farm operating smoothly. I hadn't expected to spend too much time at the farm, but the fellowship, tranquility, beauty, and appreciation of working closely with the earth and its animals has been a frequent pull. HSF is one of my favorite places.

Part of the pull for me has been the ambitious, hard-working, cheery staff. In the transition we retained about sixty percent of the staff, including the entire farm leadership team of Ashlee, Lori, and Lindsey. What we did somewhat differently from the past was to pay these people what they are worth. Salaries were increased of all farm employees between 35-70%. We also provide comprehensive benefits for the staff including health care and retirement. Our staff are amazing and work tirelessly to make sure each grower enjoys and benefits from their time at the farm.

Some things never change however. There are more than a few rumors that HSF will soon have alpacas. It is true. Staff and growers have been working on demolishing an old run-in and constructing a new run-in designed to alpaca specifications. Nina has been out alpaca shopping and has lined up a mother and two babies. Soon your visits to the farm will have a new attraction.

In closing, let me offer my thanks to all the families and growers who made the transition to HBH a welcoming one. HBH relied on our solid executive team of Hana, Joanne, and Alison to make sure all of this happened without a hitch, and as far as I know, it amazingly did! Thanks also to the behind the scenes county and state government officials as well as Senator Teplitz office for their invaluable help and guidance with overcoming the necessary government paperwork.

I look forward to spending more time at the farm and hope to see you out there!

Howard S. Rosen, Ph.D.

President

Our Staff

Ashlee Bargo - Program Director
Lori Liddle - Lead Farm Associate
Lindsey Wommer - Lead Farm Associate

Farm Associates

Doug Allen
Sharlene Bivens
Lauren Blumenstine
Ryan Cagno
Kelly Fahnstock

Ronica Foley
Madison Hartz
Caitlin Hoffman
Brian Sweger
Phil Wagoner

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Hempfield Behavioral Health

2019 North 2nd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

717-221-8004 (Phone)

717-221-8006 (Fax)

www.hempfieldpa.com

Staff Spotlight!

by Ashlee Bargo

My favorite thing about HSF... **by Madison Hartz**

"I love my job because it gives me an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. I have a great boss, a chance to make new friends as well as a chance to change my life for the better."

The growers truly enjoy having Madison around as a staff person. She is willing to do just about anything thrown at her, from working 1:1 with a grower, to taking a 1:5 group at the drop of a hat. Her enthusiasm and excitement for the growers and teaching them new skills is evident each day she is present.

