

Winter 2022

FriendsNews

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm is a non-profit organization supporting Deer Hollow Farm and its educational programs.



Spooky Times Success

The Farm was filled with festive decorations, haunted barns, and spirited visitors young and old in costume as we celebrated another successful Spooky Times event this Halloween. With 440 visitors, we earned a total of \$2,961 for the Farm to take care of our animals. Thank you!



Farm Updates

by Nancy Stuhr

Let's Talk "Crimp"

In our last newsletter, you learned about sheep shearing and some of the natural beneficial properties of sheep's wool. Now we shall dig a little deeper.

"Crimp" in a textile strand is defined as the undulations or succession of waves or curls in the strand, induced naturally during fiber growth. Crimp can also be mechanically added to fibers.



Wool with natural crimp is highly desirable. The crimp in wool fibers makes it soft and springy to touch. It also adds bulk and traps a large volume of air between the fibers, giving it good insulation properties. Finer fibers with more crimp create fabrics that drape better than coarser fibers.

When the sheep are sheared, Joan, volunteer and our resident wool expert, takes the fleece to be cleaned and prepared for spinning. Once cleaned, the wool is sent to the Valley Oak Wool & Fiber Mill in Woodland where it is spun into beautiful, naturally colored, soft yarns. If you are a fiber artist who enjoys knitting and crocheting, these skeins (a skein is the yarn rolled into a loose, oblong-shaped twist) are offered for sale at the Farm. Many fiber buffs are happy to support the Farm by purchasing the yarns for the quality, but also because they know the animal and where the wool comes from is important to them.



Did you know that a 2016 study found a significant relationship between the frequency of knitting and respondents' perceived mood and feelings? Frequent knitters (those who knitted more than 3 times a week) were calmer, happier, less sad, less anxious, and more confident.

A big thank you goes out to Joan, and don't forget: Bowie, Mint, Knit and Purl, and debuting this year, Clover!

A Mani-Pedi for Our Cows?

Well, not exactly! But cows do need their hooves trimmed about once a year, and as you may imagine, it is a rather complicated process that needs to be done by a professional! You may also imagine that these particular folks are not easy to find, and you would be correct!

Jenny, our cow hoof trimmer, comes all the way from Modesto with a very big, highly specialized truck and some heavy-duty power tools. This specialized truck has a squeeze that will rotate up onto the flatbed of the truck. Jenny's family has been in the cow trimming business for generations. Her skills and equipment were passed down from her father.

A squeeze chute is a strongly built stall or cage for holding cattle, or other livestock safely while they are examined, or given veterinary treatment. The chute can work through hydraulic power to safely "squeeze" the animal into place. There's no real pressure applied to the cattle, and instead, it creates a barrier on all four sides around them so that they can't back up or ram against the sides.

The process calls for the cow to be walked up next to the truck and into the attached "squeeze chute". Once in the squeeze chute the cows are fitted with wide, heavy belly bands that will help to lift them and hold them safely in place when the chute rotates up onto the truck. Once the feet/hooves are accessible, the trimmer can safely and very quickly trim the hooves. The process goes quickly, and the cows are lowered back down and released from the chute.

Cows' hooves need to be trimmed to ensure that their toes are not overly-long, or overlapping, which can cause tripping hazards, lameness, and leg injuries. Imagine that your shoes were too tight all the time. You'd soon become very uncomfortable and may even become unable to walk.



Before Trimming



After Trimming

Farm Updates (*cont'd*)

What's New at the Farm

Thanks to the generous support of our farm friends, the Farm has some valuable new tools. These tools have been made possible by your donations. The Farm was able to trade-in the old garbage can for a new Chicken Feed Hopper.



A feed hopper is simply a holding bin with an integrated tray that releases the animal feed at an adjustable rate. It provides the most efficient and economical method of measuring and controlling the release of materials - like our chicken feed. This is a great improvement over the old metal trash can. The hopper keeps the feed fresh, clean, safe from rodents, and also helps to

eliminate waste by pre-measuring the appropriate amount of food each time. This is especially important as the cost of animal feed has gone up significantly since 2020.



Also just acquired is a new Kidding Jug. A jug is an old-fashioned farming term for a pen that holds mama goats and kids (and sometimes other animals) in protective space inside the barn.

Once born, the new kids and mom will stay in the jug for a few days to bond with each other and get stronger before they mingle with the general population. The jug also allows the farmers to regulate feed and temperature, accommodating the different needs of each of the occupants. This model is an improvement over the old wooden jug as it is lightweight, portable, adjustable, easy to clean, and easy to set up.

Thanks again to all of you who donate to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm!

Surprise! Gosling!



This June, Ryan, Athena, and Lucy surprised the farm with their very first gosling! Athena and Lucy sat on the nest while Ryan stood guard. It is hoped that he will find a home that will assist in keeping his rare breed (Cotton Patch Geese) going for future generations.

Friends Board News

by Tara Sreekrishnan

Farewell to Our Incredible Board President and Secretary

The Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board will see major changes this season as we say farewell to two wonderful Board members. The contributions of our outgoing Board President Lauren Merriman and Secretary Nancy Stuhr in supporting the work of the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board cannot be overstated. In their two consecutive three-year terms on the Board, Lauren and Nancy have consistently gone above and beyond to support the Farm and farm-goers.



Along with serving as our Board President, Lauren is the City of Campbell's Recreation Supervisor and previously served as a Recreation Supervisor with the City of Mountain View's Recreation Division that is responsible for both the Farm and FODHF. Her knowledge of our region's extensive parks and recreation system has been invaluable to the work that we do, as she has led us through the successful

restoration of the White Barn despite obstacles brought on by COVID-19, new funding partnerships with local agencies, several farm enhancement projects, record fundraising years as well as record attendance at farm events, and much, much more!



Nancy has been a livestock volunteer at the Farm for the past two decades, and she will continue her service in this capacity after completing her two terms on our Board. Nancy has hosted her signature holiday pop-up photo shoots at the Farm, led our T-shirt fundraising campaigns, regularly takes photos for our media outlets, and is our go-to volunteer to bring animals to local events so that they can safely interact with

community members.

These two women possess immeasurable dedication, and we wish them all the best in their retirement from the Board.

Meet Our Newest Board Member

We are excited to welcome our newest Board member Renee Blitzer who joined our Board this past September.



Renee, a Technical Program Manager at Google and a professional coach, is passionate about farms, sustainability, education and ensuring the well-being of local community. She has lived in our area for over ten years where she has enjoyed regularly visiting the animals at Deer Hollow Farm with her family. Welcome, Renee!

The FODHF Needs Help!

Please consider joining us! The FODHF Board is currently accepting applications for new board members. If you or someone you know is passionate about the Farm and wants to get more involved, please reach out to info@DeerHollowFarmFriends.org.

We would love to gain team members that have solid communication skills, and a bonus if they have experience writing grants, preparing financial information, marketing, event management and/or general fundraising experience. Terms are 3-years in length and the Board currently meets four times a year - January, March, May and September.

We have several long-time Board members terming out and we need fresh faces to help make sure our goals to support the Farm continue. The time commitment is on average 2 to 5 hours a month!

Spring Farm Tours in 2023

Be sure to save the dates for our Spring Farm Tours that will be coming up on March 25th and April 22nd of 2023. Come swing by and say "hello" to the wonderful farm animals and your friends at the Farm!

Wonderful Friends

We gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who contributed to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022.

Grants

Town of Los Altos (\$6,000)

Donations

Red-Tailed Hawk (\$1,000 to \$12,000)

Dewey and Doris Halligan
Santa Clara County

Jackie Hall, in Memory of Stan
Hall

Elizabeth Stinson
Shannon Hegg, with Apple/
Benevity Match

Al Kaiser, in Memory of Suzanne
Kaiser

Peter Stern, in Honor of Fred
Sotcher

California Thresher (\$500 to \$900)

Judy Blumenstein, with Match
Evan Donoghue, with Benevity
Match

Betsy & George Young, with
Match

Larry & Donna Aronson
Tom & Susan Kempe, in Memory
of Matt Kempe

Darwin & Donna Poulos, in
Memory of Bill Acly

Stellar Jay (\$300-\$400)

Amazon Smile Foundation
Katrina Secoy

Timothy Dylan Wood, via
Benevity

Dee Wood, in Memory of Chris
Wood & In Honor of Carla

California Quail (\$200-\$250)

Michelle Jackson, in Honor of
Claire

Jaime Villarreal

Acorn Woodpecker (\$100 to \$150)

Black Sheep Handweavers
Guild

Christine Anderson

Phyllis Anderson

Christine Bate

Melissa King, in Memory of
William B. Acly

Monty Simpson

Sherry Udstuen

Phoebe (\$50 to \$80)

John & Sandy Bressler, CRFG
Jeffrey Richards

Katherine Ross, in Memory of Bill
Acly

Daniel Dobkin & Nina Wong-
Dobkin

Hummingbird

(\$20 to \$25)

Li-Chih Hu

Roger & Peggy Masini

Please join these amazing Wonderful Friends and donate to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm.
You can make your gift via credit card or PayPal at www.DeerHollowFarmFriends.org.

Thank you to Hassan Lashgari and his team at Pine Press, who have printed this color newsletter for the price of black & white.



Deer Hollow Farm is a ten-acre educational farm in Rancho San Antonio County Park & Open Space Preserve, 22500 Cristo Rey Dr, Cupertino, CA 95014. For information, call 650-903-6430.

FriendsNews is published by FoDHF for donors who want to help preserve and improve Deer Hollow Farm. website www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org email info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org



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Your next **FriendsNews** will be
mailed in June 2023

To Our Friends



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