

## Gateway Regional Agritourism Association

On Thursday, October 22nd from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Bath County Ag Center, I-64 at exit 123. It will be a kick off event for a new organization. The Gateway Regional Agritourism Association is an organization that promotes agritourism operations and related businesses for the economic well being of the region. With our promotion and networking

strategies we will return more of the consumer dollar directly to farm families. The Association is funded through a grant by the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and also local matching funds. The Gateway Area is defined as a seven region area including: Bath, Bourbon, Clark, Menifee, Montgomery, Powell, and Rowan

Counties. Members of this organization will be promoted through printed brochures, promotional displays and networking opportunities. Members will also be included on the website: gateway-agritourism.com and Kentuckyfarmersad.com. Educational opportunities will be held each quarter addressing top-

ics of interest to the members of the organization. Membership dues are \$25.00 per year and applications are being accepted now. To contact the Gateway Agritourism Association call 859-498-4540 or email to info@gatewayagritourism.com. The office is located at 126 West Main Street in Mt. Sterling, Ky 40353.

## GRAZING CROP RESIDUES

Many Kentucky farmers can take advantage of various crop residues which are left in the field following grazing through selective grazing. These residues provide a low cost source of winter feed for beef cattle. Permitting animals to graze corn stalks is the most common way of harvesting lowing animal's access cheap and requires to only a portion of the less labor and equipment through the use

of an electric fence will force animals to utilize a larger amount of dry matter thus wasting less. Another grazing technique which can be used effectively to allow these animals to graze young growing animals to have first access to a stalk field. Follow them with dry cows. This system allows the bet-

ter quality materials to be selected by the first grazers and forces the lower nutrient requiring dry cows to clean up the remains. Caution: (1) there has been cases where two much grain left in the field resulted in animals over-eating and foundering. (2) Prussic acid poisoning has been reported when grazing fields that were infested with johnson-stalk field. This problem is greatest during the early frost period.



Photo by Joshua E. Harper

### Buried Treasure

Show above is the Swamp Valley Museum. Operated by Gary Walls, son of the late Clayton Walls. Throughout his life he collected anything and everything that he found to be useful or of any value. Clayton Walls, 1927-1994, he grew up in and around Swamp Valley, married to Jeanette Walls, 82, raised 7 kids. He opened the museum in the early 80's, the cabin was moved to the location in the early 70's, inside you can find anything ranging from Toddler's shoes from the early 1900's to antique farming equipment.

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## Dream of farming cultivates interesting hobby

When Moorefield native Darwin Mitchell was a little boy he dreamed of owning his own farm. As an adult he has achieved his dream with an unusual twist.

While Darwin, his wife Melissa and daughters Petrea and Shania are a typical farming family in many ways, there is one aspect of Darwin's farming that remains very unique.

Besides regular farming activities, including raising a crop of tobacco, Darwin also enjoys "small-scale farming."

It started with painting some plywood green, and making the layout of a small-scale farm.

No farm is complete without a farmhouse and Mitchell's has curtains, lights and many of the

same personal items, which all farmhouses have. Every farm needs a barn, and Mitchell's even has miniature tobacco hanging off it. Besides miniature tobacco, his farm also has crops of hay and corn. He even has miniature farm equipment.

By using toothpicks, hot wheel tires and baling wire, he has made a hay rack, sickle mower, bush hog, and many other pieces of farm machinery.

Darwin is a recreational farmer and an experienced hand with all phases of carpentry and woodworking.

When a tornado struck and destroyed their home in 1990, Darwin and Melissa, picked up the pieces and began building a new life in a home they pur-

chased in Moorefield. Darwin's interest in his hobby has increased over the years and he now has three farm layouts.

Darwin's hobby has also grown to include collecting several farm toys. He loves the farming business and his expanding hobby so much that he has built a Massey Ferguson Peda tractor.

The first is exceptionally impressive because the Peda tractor is made completely out of wood.

The piece is special in many ways. Having been constructed without a pattern and straight from vision, it demonstrates his craftsmanship, love of a rural family lifestyle, and is also another unique feature to his unique farm hobby.



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