

Ramseyer Farms fall festival offers endless fun for all

By Jenna Wolford

I can't think of anything more welcoming to the autumn season than a great fall festival.

Last October, my elementary-age daughter took a field trip to Ramseyer Farms in Wooster. She enjoyed her visit so much we decided to take a family trip during the farm's ongoing fall festival this year.

I was pleasantly surprised with the many family-fun activities the farm had to offer — all included in the admission fee.

As we entered through the farm's gates we were faced with the great decision of where to start. There were so many opportunities, so we decided to work our way counterclockwise and start with the corn bin.

The massive corn bin held an incredible amount of shelled corn that my kids spent a great amount of time digging, "swimming" and burying each other in. Dump trucks, buckets and hand-crank conveyors kept them

entertained and actually drew us back again at the end of our trip. This ended up being a favorite for my children.

As we continued our adventure through the farm, I realized just how many activities were offered. As we explored the farm we found corn crib slides, a potato sling shot, a straw bale maze, hay rides, farm animal feeding, a mini covered wagon train, potato box maze, racing tracks, towering pipe slides, learning games and even a real combine with a custom-built shoot for sliding out the back.

A maze of tunnels has been burrowed into a large hill and offers lots of twists and turns and room for discovery.

There are too many activities to list, but there are surely enough to occupy an entire day.

The hardest part was getting children to leave one activity to try another. They loved each station so much it was hard for them to leave it.

This festival truly offered endless amounts of fun for all ages. And the fact that there is no limit on how many times you can do an activity lets everyone in the family find a favorite activity to try over and over.

It was nice to go somewhere with my children and be able to interact and learn with them.

The festival is full of fall "FLAVORites" including kettle corn, fresh-cut potato fries and — a must try — Lerch's Pumpkin Donuts.

There are also plenty of photo opportunities for snap-happy moms like myself — including wood stand-up cutouts, pumpkin displays and an oversized rocking chair.

Having a four-year-old we didn't attempt the more challenging mystery maze this visit, but we

did explore the mini-maze and we walked parts of the 8-acre Ohio maze. The maze's posted signs taught fun facts about Ohio and its paths represented major highways and rivers and even the Underground Railroad route.

This was truly a family adventure and I think we have found a new fall family tradition.

I recommend arriving early — as we did — which gave us the chance to try everything once and then go back to our favorite activities later.

Our visit was on a Saturday with beautiful weather and I was a bit apprehensive about the crowd turnout, but with so many separate activities, the lines went fast, even with a large crowd in attendance.

I suggest planning your visit for a minimum of four hours to

be able to experience all the activities at least once. The farm also offers a store with pick-your-own pumpkins, face painting and scarecrow making.

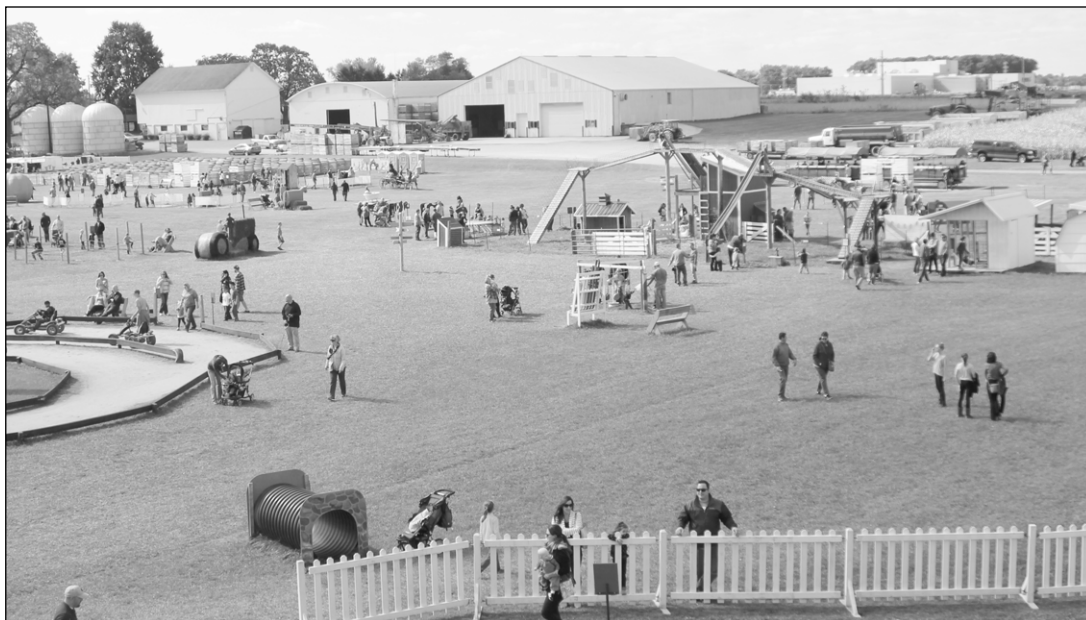
Ramseyer's Fall Festival will continue through the month of October on Saturdays from 11 am to 7 pm and on Sundays from 1-5 pm. Cost for an all-day pass on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday is \$10 for ages 3-64; \$8 for ages 65+ and free for those two and under. Check the website for other available pricing.

The farm is a great day-trip getaway for all ages. Less than an hour-drive from our area, the farm is located at 3488 Akron Rd., Wooster — on the same road as the Smithville Barn Restaurant.

For more information call 330-264-0264 or visit www.ramseyerfarms.com.



FUN-SEEKING families took to the slides at Ramseyer Farms in Wooster on a beautiful Saturday. Fall Festival weekends continue through the month.



The Ramseyer Farms Fall Festival offers activities for all ages. Included in the photo are the cart races, potato box maze and interactive goat feeding and viewing area.

Tribune-Courier Church Directory

Ridgeway Church of God

1380 Park Avenue East
Pastor John K. Dodds
9:30 am Sunday School • 10:40 am Sunday Worship
Sunday 6:30 pm Grow Gathering & Teen Rock Group
6:30 pm Wed. Bible Study & Wed. Night Kids

Promise Land Fellowship

506 Park Avenue East, Mansfield
Pastor Rick Wiseman • 419-512-2435
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Service Celebration of Worship 10:45 am
Sunday Evening 6:30 pm
Seek God's Face, Monday 11 am, Tuesday 7 pm, Saturday 10 am

Mayflower Congregational Church

548 North McElroy Rd. • 419-589-6612
Reverend Dr. Gary L. Wilson
9:15 am Sunday School • 10:30 am Sunday Worship
Wednesday Bible Study 10 am
www.mayflowercongregationchurch.org

Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 West Church St., Lexington • 419-884-1330
Reverend James Randas
9:30 am Sunday School • 10:30 am Sunday Worship

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West • 419-529-4345
Pastor Peg Welch
Grace & Eggs (breakfast) every Sunday 8:30-9:45
Kingdom Kids (rotation Sunday School) 9:00
Adult Sunday School 9:00
Sunday Worship 10:15
Bible Study every Tuesday 3:30 & 6:45

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

"Where the Word of God is preached and people come to know the Lord."
Pastor Carol Kilgore
2010 Park Avenue West • 419-529-4351
Sunday Worship 9 am

Grace Brethren Church of Lexington

215 West Main St. • 419-884-2687
www.gracelex.org
Pastor Matthew Ruppel • Associate pastor Nathaniel Foote
9:30 am Sunday Worship • 10:45 am Sunday School
Adult Bible Study Wednesday 7 pm
Kids Zone Wednesday 6:30 pm (PreK-5th Grade)

Southside Christian Church Disciples of Christ

2055 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield • Pastor Paul Lintern
10:45 am Sunday Worship
419-756-3436

McElroy Road Church of Christ

297 N. McElroy Rd., Madiosn area • 419-589-2661
Minister Dean Jackson
Sunday School 9:30 am • Worship 10:30 am
Bible Study Sunday at 6 pm & Wednesday at 7 pm

Christ Lutheran Church of Lexington (NALC)

159 Frederick St., Lexington • 419-884-2551
Pastor Marilou Brook
9 am Sunday Worship • 10:15 am Sunday School
Wed. Services (Lent & Advent) 7 pm

St. Timothy Lutheran Church (ELCA)

1262 Ashland Rd. at Rt. 30, Madison Area • 419-589-5252
Pastor Bonnie Peltomaa
8 am Worship • 9:30 am Sunday School
Sunday 10:30 am Worship with Children's Church
Bible Studies: Wed. at 10 am; Monthly- men & women; Seasonal
5 pm Last Sunday of month: Free meal and food distribution

Ontario Free Methodist Church

2200 Bedford Blvd., Ontario • 419-747-3204
Pastor Tony Viscioni • www.ontariofree.com
10:45 am Sunday Worship
10:30 am Wed. Adult Bible Study

First United Methodist Church

12 North Diamond, Mansfield • 419-522-8623
Reverend W. Kent Joy • church@firstumcmansfield.org
9:30 am Sunday School
8:30 am and 10:45 am Sunday morning worship
Community Breakfast 9-10 am Last Sunday of Each Month

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