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Mission statement of Spring Hill Farm: to preserve and promote the legacy of Muriel Church through the continuance of agricultural operations and the stewardship of both open land and forests, while providing educational and recreational opportunities to the public.

Issue
EIGHT

Spring Hill Farm –SUMMER 2023

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An
Issue!**

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HEY...look at that!

If you have noticed the new, handsome kiosk at the farm and wondered where it came from, you have Boy Scout Jayden Gaudet of Troop 163 to thank. Jayden ambitiously took on the task of building the kiosk as his Eagle Scout project. It was no small task to raise the funds, develop the design, gather the material and coordinate the construction of the kiosk.

Jayden raised funds via attending the SHF Fall Fest, the 300th celebration and gathering donations from local businesses and reaching out on social media. In all he raised \$1657.00 and there was a total of 363 hours (and 4 minutes) in time spent to complete the project. Two sides have bulletin boards that will post pertinent facts about the seasons and upcoming events at SHF.

Well done, Jayden! SHF thanks you!



SHF FUN FACT:

Miss Church loved all animals. The last cow that she owned on the farm was named "Sweet Potato". After Muriel passed away, Sweet Potato became friends with a bull in the pasture and eventually gave birth to "Norma", who lived out her days at the farm. Norma was the last cow with a connection to Muriel.

Look at Norma's face! She was well known around town.



Tire swings are made for summer.

On the Horizon

Mark your Calendars...

Annual
Town Fair (SHF booth)
SAT Sep. 9th Noon-4pm

Annual
Fall Festival at SHF
SAT Sep. 23rd 10am-4pm

SHF Benefit Trail Ride
(Sponsored by Derry Trail Riders)
SUN Sep. 24th 9am-2pm



Summertime beauty at SHF!

Did you know?

The word "summer" originates from "sumor" an Old English word meaning "together". Its origin may refer to the idea that everything converges and thrives in the summer months.

**A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining,
the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing,
and the lawn mower is broken.**

- James Dent

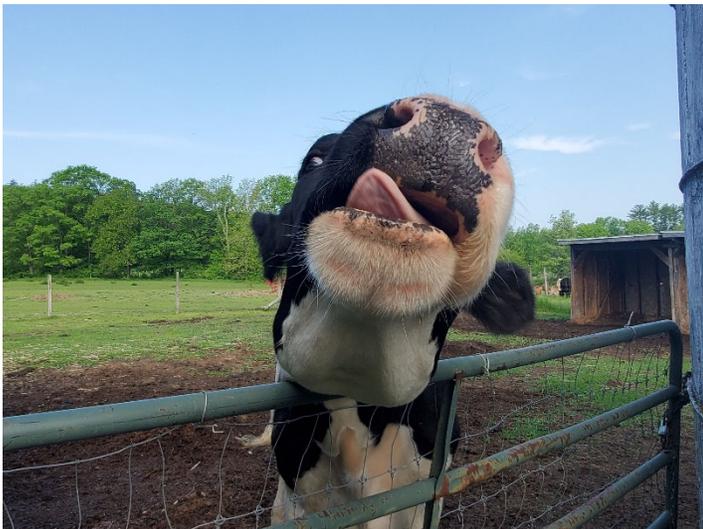
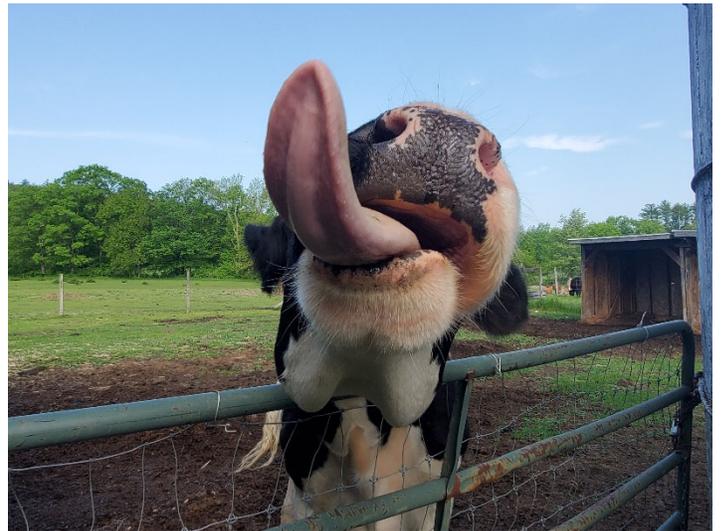
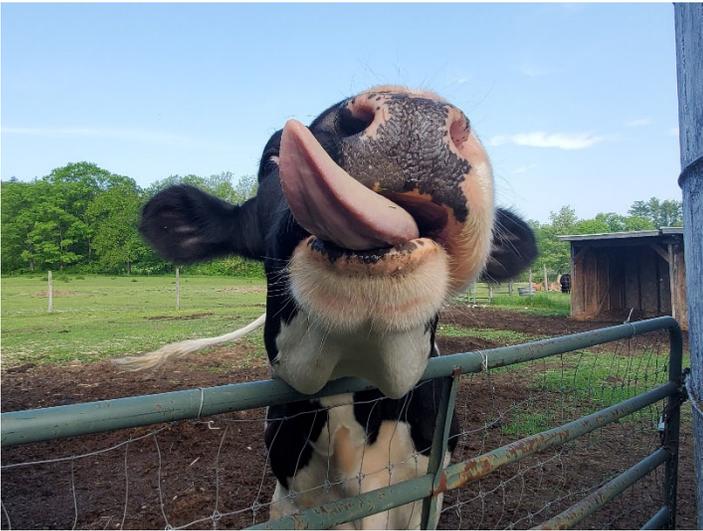
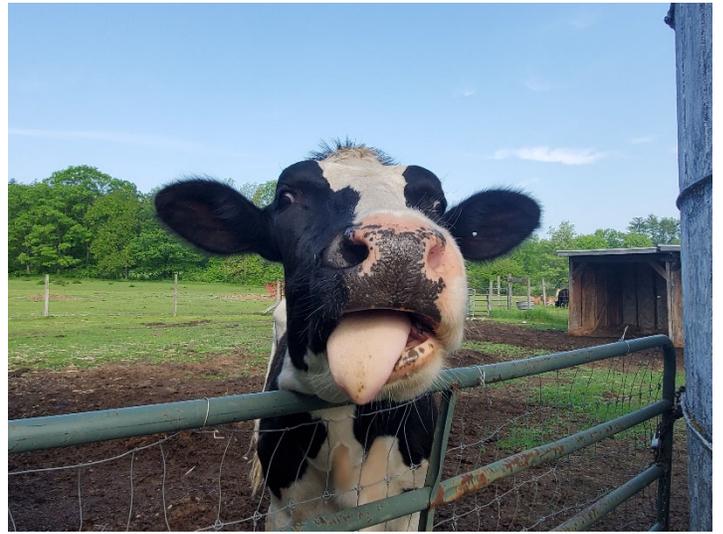


Peaching up the farm

We are currently working on fulfilling all of the requirements for our permits to enable the interior farmhouse renovation to commence. In the meantime, we have turned to some outside maintenance items. The siding on the potting shed has been finished and staining of the garage, potting shed and planters have begun. As usual, the cows are the preeminent supervisors.



Summer and Cows...both make you smile!



Meet "Taffy". She was mugging for a treat, even though she didn't get one!



A “new” old piece of equipment at SHF. This Mower-conditioner not only cuts the hay, but then conditions the hay by crimping the hay via rollers that promote moisture evaporation and faster drying. It cuts down on the time needed for baling. With all the rain...we need faster drying!!!



Moosewood Ecological, LLC

This year, the Chester Conservation Commission contracted with Moosewood Ecological, LLC to do an intensive inventory/survey of approximately 40 acres of specialized habitat at Springhill Farm. Our hope is to obtain a better grasp of what species of birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, amphibians and plants, are located by the pond area in order to best protect the habitat and minimize human impact.

From Moosewood Ecological - "Field inventories will occur from spring through fall of 2023 to optimize efficient detection of focal species. This level of effort will focus on identifying large-scale habitats mapped by the Wildlife Action Plan and fine-scale wildlife habitats (e.g., vernal pools, den sites, etc.), exemplary/unique natural communities, invasive plants, forest pathogens (e.g., beech bark scale disease), and ecologically sensitive areas, as well as focal wildlife and plant species. This inventory provides an excellent opportunity to better understand the presence of focal species associated with Spring Hill Farm throughout the seasons, affording an opportunity to efficiently sample species when they are easiest to detect."

To date thus far, the survey has already yielded outstanding results with over 240 wildlife species documented, this includes over 80 species of birds! We will always be grateful to Muriel Church for her generous donation of these acres which serve as either a forever home for these species, or as a place to find food, water, and shelter temporarily for wildlife species with larger territories. Springhill Farm is a paradise for wildlife, forever protected. Please enjoy your time there and remember to stay on the trails and limit your impact to the environment.



Marsh Marigold



Wood Thrush

Photos courtesy of:

Stephen Lamonde, Ecologist and Springhill Farm Project Leader for Moosewood Ecological, LLC

Save the date.... Sep. 23rd....SHF FALL FEST

Although we are in the middle of summer, it's not too early to start getting excited about the events of the Fall. Autumn is the time to get out and enjoy the special aspects of the towns around New England and Chester is no different. I'm not talking about the town fair, which is definitely a fun event, I'm talking about the 4th Annual Spring Hill Farm Fall Fest!

This event has a charm not found at the larger events. It is held on Miss Church's farm property at 96 Towle Rd. The focus of this Fall Fest is to be an extension of the mission of Miss Church: education, agriculture and conservation. When you pull up and park in one of the hay fields (turned parking lot) you will walk by a unique collection of antique tractors. Stop and read about the history of this vital piece of farm equipment and see how it has evolved over time.

Next walk across the street toward the farmhouse and be greeted by the friendly volunteers at the welcome table. You can grab a brochure about the farm and a schedule of the events of the day.

Then head over to your left and browse all the vendors who are eager to share their passions with you. We try to showcase vendors of all ages and talents that come from our own area.

There is handmade pottery, sewing creations, handmade soaps and candles, New England photography, delicious jams, baked goods and so much more. There are also booths that will give you information about new farming methods or more info about the conservation land around town. If you have something you would like to share and are thinking you would like to be a vendor, then the Spring Hill Farm Fall Fest is the perfect opportunity to dip your toe into the water and connect with others!

Demonstrations throughout the day offer some opportunities to see some special skills in action.

In the past we have had spinning wheel demonstrations, wood chopping, working oxen, wood turning, animal shows and more! This year looks to be an exciting one with the addition of an award-winning farrier showing off his blacksmithing skills!

Did you bring the younger family members along? Well, head on over to the "Farmer Training" station. Here your kids will get to experience some farm chores before they get to play. Kids of all ages will need to milk a cow, chop some wood, lasso a loose bull, and scrub some socks on the washboard, run them through the wringer and hang them out to dry! After all their chores are done there are plenty farm themed carnival games, face painting, and stick horse barrel racing for both the young in body and young at heart!

As you make your way around, stop at the raffle booth and drop a ticket in for a chance at the lovely prize basket that improves each year, full of local treats and goodies.

Grab a snack or beverage from one of the hardworking cub scouts and then head on back across the street to catch a ride on the hay wagon! Get a narrated tour of the property as you get to view the entrance to the amazing trail system on Miss Church's property. You can take a round trip on the wagon or hop off by the pond and explore the trails and the scavenger hunt of the year. As you carefully explore the trails, be on the lookout for some of the over 240 species of wildlife that call Miss Church's property their home.

Come on back and just enjoy the music, meet some new neighbors and learn more about what to find and how to get involved at Spring Hill Farm. So come on by, September 23rd from 10-4. You'll be glad that you did!





Vendors Needed

Spring Hill Farm Fall Fest is coming up on September 23rd!

We have some vendor spots still available! Spots are only \$15 and are the perfect opportunity for large and small local businesses to connect with their community in Chester!

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS WOOD WORKERS
CRAFTERS BAKERS ARTISTS DEMONSTRATORS

Vendor sign up link: <https://forms.gle/kbgaZaapVhXfUhAN7>

Any questions about Vendor sign up? Contact email is: springhillfarmchester@gmail.com



Kids' games galore!