

**BPAC Supervisor Report - Meeting February 9, 2024**

*Submitted by Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor*

**Fall and Winter 2023 Recap:**

- October 20, 2023: Date Night Experience – Couples enjoyed a barbeque meal, making smores around a fire pit and kicking up their heels in the Hay Barn while taking country western dance lessons.
- October 21, 2023: Canning Class – Students made Apple Pie Filling and left with a quart size jar of their own to make an apple pie for the holidays. These classes are designed to give students confidence in the canning process, teach safe canning practices, and make new friends.
- October 21, 2023: Scarecrow Making Class – Families made a large scarecrow to display at home. Each one had its own unique style. This was held in the Chesapeake building with stations set up for families to rotate. All supplies were provided except the hat.
- October 27, 2023: Crowley Homeschool Field trip students had stations they could rotate divided into 4 groups. Due to the grounds being wet we were not able to offer a hayride to the back nature trails. Instead we offered a scavenger hunt that was educational on historical items on the farm and identification of trees and plants. The Russell Boren home was open for students to tour in the rotation along with the donkey station.
- October 28, 2023: Far Out Family Camp Out at the farm – This event was so much fun for all who attend. Corn hole, archery, fishing, fire pit, games, movie inside, dinner, instructional line dancing and much more filled the evening.
- November 11, 2023: Red Chair Lecture with Morgan Gieringer, Director of Special Collections at UNT Library, spoke on the historical branding irons on display in the Baker Building art gallery. Those who attended were able to have a hands-on demonstration of branding on a piece of wood. These brandings from Texas Ranches are on loan to Russell Farm and are on display in the Baker building art gallery.
- November 17, 2023: Fall Fest and Kids Farmers Market – Hayrides, arts and crafts, games, corn maze and lots of unique merchandise to purchase from the Children's

Entrepreneur market with 58 vendors.

- November 18, 2023: Canning Class – Students made Holiday Jam. This class had a waitlist and maxed out with 16 in the class. Everyone took their personal jar of holiday jam. These classes are to encourage students to be confident in the canning process, teach safe practice while canning and make friends.
- December 2, 2023: Breakfast with Santa was a great success with up to 960 attendees. The theme this year was the Grinch. Green pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice were served. Families enjoyed free cocoa and a picture with Santa and the Reindonkey. The Grinch had his house in the Baker Building where children could go in and visit.
- December 6,7,8, 9, 2023: Nights of Lights is an after our event offered for four evenings where families can stop by and see the entire farm decorated with Christmas lights. We also partnered with BISD Gaming Academy for a light show to music. Visitors enjoyed hot cocoa to spread holiday cheer.
- December 9, 2023: Christmas on the Farm had over 800 visitors that experienced an old fashion Christmas event. Activities included visits from Santa, free arts and crafts, Children's Entrepreneur market with 58 vendors, hayrides, and live music for guest to enjoy while visiting the farm.

#### **Upcoming Programs and Activities for Spring 2024:**

- February 10, 2024: Sweets for your Sweetie - This class will teach the methods of working with chocolate and dipping strawberries, pretzels and marshmallows. Students will take home a platter full of sweets wrapped and ready to give as a gift to your sweetheart!
- February 16, 2024: Date Night Experience – Event will include a catered Italian meal from local restaurant Sammy's Italian Bistro, smore's by the fire pit, and instructional country western dancing for couples.
- March 16, 2024: Canning Class Pickled Three Bean Salad - This class is designed to give confidence to our students in the canning process and practice safety as well as meet new friends.
- March 23, 2024: Donuts with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt – This event will include a donut breakfast for \$5.00. The Easter Egg hunt is free to all children ages 4 and under.
- March – May 2024 Homeschool Enrichment classes:
  - Wood Shop - Ages 12 to 18

- Art Classes - Ages 12 to 18
  - Farm School - Ages 6 to 12
  - Spanish Class - Ages 6-12
- April 6, 2024: Show Me How Fair- Vendors will be demonstrating their craft and selling goods. This is our second time to offer this event. Vendors will consist of pottery, basket weaving, t-shirt screening, wood carving, outdoor cooking, wool felting, Native American beading, and spinning and weaving. Time: 10:00 to 2:00 pm This is a free event.
- April 20, 2024: Balsamic Onion Jam Canning Class - This class is designed to give confidence to our students in the canning process and practice safety as well as meet new friends.
- May 17, 2024: Texas Heritage Music Night – Free live music to kick off Texas Heritage Festival
- May 18, 2024: Texas Heritage Festival – This is an event to celebrate our Texas Heritage. Activities include pioneer dressed docents, chuck wagons demonstrating outdoor cooking, Native American, hayrides, crafting and more! This is a free event.