

10 Reasons Every Child Should Experience Farming

by Mackenzie Withington

I could not imagine any other way to raise a big family than on a farm. My kids are held responsible for daily farm chores, animal care and maintenance on a daily basis. They are well-rounded kids who are not afraid to get dirty, jump in and help, bust their butt or take risks. Living on a farm teaches kids skills that can never be taught in a classroom. I am grateful everyday for this simple, yet involved and busy life we live.

Teaches Where Their Food Comes From. As a teacher it always amazed me how many children didn't know where their food came from or what their food was. Pork and pig were totally different entities. Vegetable were mystery edibles that they were forced to eat. Kid benefit in life when they know where their food is coming from, how it is raised and the amazing process of bringing food from the farm to their plate.

Teaches Responsibility. Anything that is raised or grown on a farm depends on the farmer. Daily care for animals and plants is essential for raising and producing a quality, healthy and delicious product. Feeding and watering,

cleaning and grooming, building and fixing are daily tasks that take place on every farm, everyday. Kids who farm learn how important their role is in the production of the food that feeds them, their families and their friends.

Teaches How to Care for Animals. Proper care for animals is essential in raising quality food. Animals need food, shelter and TLC to grow healthy and happy. Farming teaches kids why and how different animals receive different feed, require different types of shelter and need different care at different times. It teaches kids to be aware, observant and alert to the different animal needs.

Teaches Life Skills. There are some things that you just can not learn from a book or in school. Farming teaches children of all ages life skills like raising food, working hard, communication, caring for others and much more.

Teaches Safety Skills. Being aware of your surrounding is the number one rule when farming. Milking cows, working on equipment, feeding pigs, catching chickens, working in the gardens all require safety awareness at all times. Kids learn to keep their guard up at all times to protect themselves, the animals and the farm around them.

Teaches Kids to have a Greater Appreciation for Food. Spending a day, a week or a life time on a farm will change the way you see food. Food becomes a reward not just something that comes from a grocery store. Kids who grow and raise their own food are more likely to waste less and eat a greater variety of foods.

Teaches the Life Cycle. One of the hardest aspects about farming is the fact that where there is live stock there is dead stock. The cycle of life is hard to teach and even harder to accept. Being on the farm brings to joys of new life and the sadness of lost life. It is the cycle of life, hard and rewarding at the same time.

Teaches Kids to have a Greater Awareness of Weather and Mother Nature. Weather, of all sorts, affects farming on a daily basis. Rain is extremely important but too much is never good. Extreme heat or extreme cold has it affect on everything and everyone on a farm. Farmers are very dependent on Mother Nature yet we have no control over any of it. All we can do as farmers is be aware of what is forecast and prepare properly.

Teaches Problem-Solving Skills. Animals have a mind of their own and things change on a daily basis. As a farmer kids need to figure

out ways to get chores done if animals, weather or equipment doesn't want to cooperate. Fixing fence, pulling weeds, fixing watering systems so that everything on the farm continues to function are just some problems that farmers face daily.

Teaches that Hard Work Results in Sweet Rewards. Farming is one of the hardest jobs I have ever had, and I have had a lot of jobs. It is physical, mental, stressful, and emotional but at the end of the day it is so very rewarding.

So, I am sure you are wondering how you can help make it possible for kids everywhere to experience farming. The solution is simple. Lilly Den Farm, lillydenfarm.com, now offering farm day experiences through summer camps, field days, tour and more. Donating to the scholarship fund will provide the funds needed to help children everywhere experience farming.

Want to donate to Lilly Den Farm: Young Farmers Summer Camps of Home School Days? We make it easy.

Come out to our Pig Pickin Fundraiser on April 30. Check out <https://tinyurl.com/kzmul5> for more information.

Make a monetary donation to Lilly Den Farm Camp Scholarship fund at <https://tinyurl.com/km2b3mv> or come visit us at one of our farmers' market to talk about volunteering or to make a donation.

CHATHAM OPINION Line

And the Beat Goes On . . .

by Don Lein

Recently, Charles Murray was asked to address a group at Middlebury College, in Bernie Sanders' beloved Vermont. Unlike UC Berkeley, a very large public university, Middlebury is a small semi-elite private college in Middlebury, Vermont. These students come from the homes of quite well-off parents. Despite their differences, groups of students from each school protested/rioted when a speaker whom they did not agree with, was scheduled to speak. The rioting at Middlebury was so severe that injuries requiring hospitalization were sustained by one of the faculty members accompanying Murray's party.

Setting aside the question of freedom of expression, particularly on college campuses, the question remains, "what had Murray done to merit such treatment?" Apparently, according to some sources, including the NY Times, Murray was "a white nationalist". Of course, neither the NY Times nor his campus detractors could identify any sources to validate that claim, whatever it means. In this day of political correctness, however, proof is not necessary - particularly in academia. Simply a label will do and millennials will pour out of their private places and forcibly prevent freedom of expression.

Similarly, Professor Lanny Ebenstein, of University of California at Santa Barbara dismisses opinions of economist

Walter Williams and others, because they are "committed to the welfare of the top few". Nowhere does he cite proof for that assertion, although Williams has written extensively, both in articles and professional journals. Apparently, in academia, proof is no longer necessary. How can we expect students at these institutions to welcome debate about ideas when their professors prefer "cheap shot dismissals", with no proof offered, nor, apparently, felt needed.

Perhaps it is simply a characteristic of the progressive left that they do not need to have their act together, before they tell others what they should be doing/thinking at a cosmic level. It has been referred to as the "Bloomberg syndrome" in honor of the former Mayor of New York who would go on endlessly about the dangers of global warming, fatty food, sugary soft drinks, smoking, abortion, etc., yet proved utterly incompetent after the 2010 blizzard with streets remaining unplowed for days. Similarly, Mayor Rahm Emmanuel threatens to nullify Federal Immigration laws, yet is completely helpless when dealing with weekend shootouts in South Chicago, the murder capital of the world. Barack Obama nearly doubled the national debt, never achieved significant growth and left health care in a mess, but did promise to lower the sea levels and cool the earth.

Meanwhile on the West Coast, we have a crumbling infrastructure, sadly in need of repair, yet the leftist politicians hector their constituents about global warming. Alternative energy supplies are being touted, as well as, warning about permanent drought.

The state has a decades-old water master plan, but departed from it and did not build the necessary reservoirs. Thus, instead of having 20 million acres-feet of water to prevent drought from this year's extensive rain/snow, it ran off into the sea. While they haven't built a major reservoir in 40 years, millions have been poured into alternative energy. The Oroville Dam, the tallest in the U. S. has been slowly eroding for decades, yet no money has been appropriated to fix it. During that same time, the legislature has enacted new laws regarding plastic bags and transgender restrooms. Progressives tell us they can fix/control the universe when, in fact, they cannot satisfactorily even do the mundane.

One would expect that in the glitter capital of the world, productions would flow smoothly. Indeed, the steady stream of Trump detractors at the Academy Awards was well orchestrated. However, when it came time to award the Oscar for the Best Picture, the raison d'etre for the ceremony, nobody on the stage knew what was happening. Somewhere, Michael Bloomberg is smiling.

Incidentally, most afternoons our home gets a call from Barack Obama, asking us to donate money to some leftist cause. They have changed the number they are calling from several times, but it is essentially the same message. Apparently eight years as President has not changed that community organizer - somewhere, Saul Alinsky is smiling.

Don Lein is a regular contributor to Chatham County Line. A Chatham resident, is he involved in a variety of civic organizations.

Massive Government Wealth Redistribution Blunders

by Jeff Davidson

"The lessons of history, confirmed by the evidence immediately before me, show conclusively that continued dependence upon relief induces a spiritual disintegration fundamentally destructive to the national fiber. To dole our relief in this way is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit. It is inimical to the dictates of a sound policy. It is in violation of the traditions of America. Work must be found for able-bodied but destitute workers."

"The Federal Government must and shall quit this business of relief."

"I am not willing that the vitality of our people be further sapped by the giving of cash, of market baskets, of a few hours of weekly work cutting grass, raking leaves, or picking up papers in the public parks. We must preserve not only the bodies of the unemployed from

destitution but also their self-respect, their self-reliance, and courage and determination."

The quotes above by U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, in his 1935 State of the Union Address is astounding on many levels. Roosevelt realized less than three years into his presidency that having legions of citizens dependent on the federal government, long-term, would not be benefit anyone. Yet, he could not put the brakes on the train he had already started running down the track.

THE RUNAWAY TRAIN

The worthy, if misguided, attempts of Franklin Roosevelt, introduced one score following the ill-founded "spenda-holism" of Woodrow Wilson, should have been sufficient for any government leader, who has studied U.S. history, to avoid heading down the same path.

Too many people, however, know little about or do not care much for the historical

record. They are heavily invested in their own rhetoric. If a policy sounds good, then by jove, it must be good. Never mind what the results lead to. Never mind reviewing decades of research about human motivation, incentive, and drive.

Dr. Thomas Sowell, in a three-article series, has documented the failings of the massive federal spending when it comes to results. Now 52 years following initiation of "The Great Society," in 1965, with \$20.7 trillion spent - and gone - on massive wealth redistribution programs, the U.S. poverty rate is higher than it ever has been. This monetary outlay is equivalent to far more than \$70,000 per year, for every minority person in America, for all 51 years. Yet, Great Society target group members are no better off, and in many case worse off.

WITH A CHERRY ON TOP

So, we have the perfect "Catch 22." Over many decades, create and enforce policies that lead

to miserable lives, rioting in the streets, more crime, and cultural depression. Then blame everything on the opposition party and the majority group that had little or nothing to do with enacting such policies, call them names, make them feel guilty, and throw more money at the problem.

The vast sums of money, historically so mis-directed, invariably fail to address the problem while exacerbating it. Then, install another administration that passes more legislation, or bypasses the U.S. Constitution altogether, to rectify the resulting inequities, hence exacerbating them further. Wealth re-distribution is a cancer delivered in a sugar cube by a central planning committee of "benevolent" leaders.

Jeff Davidson of Raleigh is a regular contributor to Chatham County Line. He is "The Work-Life Balance Expert", the premier thought leader on work-life balance issues. Jeff is the author of 65 books, among them Breathing Space, Dial it Down, Live it Up, Simpler Living, 60 Second Innovator, and 60 Second Organizer. Visit www.BreathingSpace.com



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