



CRITTER

FALL
2011

connections

NEW Buildings



Many fathers and grandfathers of Critter Crew students, our Facility Committee, volunteers from TUV America, Evergreen Commons, Herman Miller and Macatawa Bank worked here throughout the summer and fall and on the United Way Day of Caring September 15.

Horse corrals, a Run-In Shed, the Chicken Coop and pasture fences have been improved. Our feed room is enlarged and remodeled. We have three **portable beverage cooler sheds** for drinking water. AK Equipment of Zeeland, Fabric Building Specialists, have donated and installed a beautiful **Hoop Barn**. It includes a cement floor from Custom Concrete, a Brock storage bin and auger system from Topline Equipment. Bill Kolean, Wayne Alofs and Harv VandenBosch gave their time to build a donated **horse stall** inside our white barn from the Beatrice Spoelhof Trust.

The Critter Barn looks fantastic!

We are **grateful** for talented and generous friends who have improved our farm and given us agricultural models for teaching and sharing with others.



THANK YOU to all the kids who worked to fill **Coins for Critters** piggy banks. Your grand total is **\$1,788!** Ten Critter Crew members presented this check at the **Annual Hoe Down**.

...faces

As our talented staff recently surrounded our meeting table, I realized how perfectly each person balances our growing operation.

Ben Hunderman joined our staff after Labor Day as Barn Manager. Ben was hoping to work with kids at a camp! Greg Daza, who remains assistant barn manager, along with Brad Sall and MSU interns, are excellent summer teachers.

Two Critter Crew MOMS have stepped forward to volunteer on a daily basis: Holly Corley and Stacey Van Valkenburg teach, do chores with Critter Crew, assist with animal care, and greet guests. Beth Timmer helps with several special event projects. Betsy Cech volunteers for public hours, events, Face Book presence, and photography. My husband, Wally, is involved with building & repair, chores and traveling farm.

Joining our staff part time: Lisa Horton provides technical support related to e-bursts, website and secretarial work. Ming Bee Lo-Brouwer is our graphic designer and marketing coach. Nate Spek helps with chores, grounds, and traveling farm. Kristi Warren remains our administrative assistant.

I am deeply grateful for wonderful people to work with, and wanted you to know how they bless the farm, our guests and the kids!

Thank you to each one!

Mary Rottschafer,
Executive Director

...in the barn

Maggie is a beautiful **Quarter Horse**, purchased from Jill Toleman from Allendale. Next spring and summer, *Maggie* will be giving guests a ride.

We're introducing a new breed: **Polish Rabbits**. Colorful small bunnies with short ears and big eyes. Meet them soon!

Pixie, a lovely **Saanen doe** (named Hercules' Pick) has been adopted from Leslie Gosnell's farm, taking the place of Hannah, who passed away this spring.

Lambs born this spring went to auction on Sept. 26 in Manchester, MI.

Five ewe lambs have stayed at the farm to become 2013 mothers. Jessica Timmer has been working with and halter training a sixth lamb, a Romney whether named *Sebastian*, who will become part of our traveling team of sheep.

INCREDIBLE CRITTERS

Surprises come in beautiful packages! Just this week, a **Muscovey hen** hatched 10 ducklings! We never expected that to happen during the fall season, but all the hatchlings are doing well. The hen and hatchlings are in a pen in the red barn.

Did you know that Muscovy ducks perch in trees and originated in South America, Mexico and Central America? Young hatchlings leave the nest within 24 hours and depend on their hen to brood them or keep them warm occasionally. They imitate their mother when eating and seek their own food.

We've sold chickens, turkeys, and will be offering pork. Want to be on the list?
Email us at critterbarnfarm@gmail.com

1 + 1 = 2

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CALENDAR

November

- 28 Zeeland Magical Christmas Parade 6:30 p.m.
- 29 Holland Parade of Lights 6:30 p.m.

December

- 7 Ribbon Cutting at 11:30 a.m.
Join us for the dedication of our new Cover-All Building, Brock storage bin, Horse Stall and Horse Corrals. Officials from Holland and Zeeland, Farm Bureau members, Ag Commodity partners, local farmers, Critter Barn Board members and many friends will be present to officially thank the builders, donors and supporters of our latest agricultural building improvements. Light refreshments. Public is invited.

5–29 Live Nativity

10 Barnes and Nobles Story Time at 3:00 p.m.

28 The Christmas Bunny movie and Bunny Wonderland at Christ Memorial Church
Free-will offering will be received. See website.



Visit us www.critterbarn.org
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