



Hooves ~N~ Honey

Year 2015

A SESSION AT DE LA CRUZ FARMS

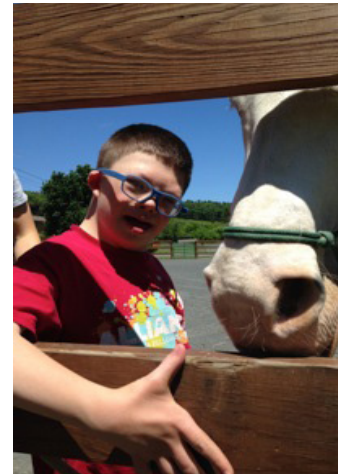
Each session varies because it is tailored towards children and his/her needs and interests.

Farm chore – Each child who comes out to the farm will be asked to help complete a chore on the farm. This lasts about 10-15 minutes.



Bible truth – Our number one mission here at de la Cruz is to share Jesus with the children who visit the farm. We have a curriculum of Bible truths that we share with each child, and they are tailored to each child's knowledge and abilities. This will last anywhere from 15-20 minutes.

Horse/Garden/Bees Activity – The children who visit the farm can choose to participate in whichever activity they like. We use these activities as tools to help share our knowledge of Jesus Christ with the children. This activity will last the remainder of the session.



2Chronicles 7:14...”if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”



de la Cruz Farms

6696 Old 421 S

Deep Gap, NC 28618

828-964-8152

info@delacruzfarms.com

www.delacruzfarms.com

MOUNT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH BARNYARD BIBLE STUDY

Mount Vernon Baptist Church desired to do an outreach into the community and neighborhoods in order to take the gospel outside of the structure of the church building. This is modeled directly after Jesus Christ - He did not just teach the gospel in the churches and to the priests, but He went out into the community to share the good news. De la Cruz hosted this barnyard bible study from June 24-June 26. The night of June 27 Mount Vernon hosted a family fellowship night with a Christian magician and food.

We had the privilege of meeting 17 children and their families. The day included worship music, prayer, bible truths, object lessons, and crafts. Mount Vernon did an outstanding job training de la Cruz staff, as well as bringing trained staff out to the farm. Mount Vernon had a generous heart in providing all the bible truth materials, activities, crafts, snacks, and take home gifts for the children. In addition, they donated additional materials to de la Cruz farms to be given

out to children who visit the farm for sessions. It's been a privilege to partner with Mount Vernon Baptist Church, and we are thankful for the generous encouragement and support that they have provided to the children and families.



SPRING OPEN BARN BENEFIT



On May 4, de la Cruz Farms hosted their second Open Barn Benefit. The purpose of the benefit was to share the Lord's mission at the farm and to raise operating funds to sustain the farm. We are very thankful to all the volunteers who graciously gave their prayers, time and energy to make this event a blessing. Matt and Paula Ferguson and Mitchell and Tammy Gragg generously provided chicken plates with slaw, baked beans, fries and a roll. Lynn Parsons baked a beautiful cake to give out as a dessert. Dot Gragg and other special friends joined in and baked other sweet treasures. We hosted a live baked goods auction and silent auction. Members of our community and local businesses graciously donated many items for the silent auction. Our friends from the band, "Maybe or Maybe Not", singers Pat and Lucy Strickland, and Doug and Laura Kaufman provided live Bluegrass music. We acknowledge God's faithfulness, protection and provision to those who love and worship Him.

"COME TO THE TABLE" VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Matthew 9:37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

We are thankful to everyone who volunteers his/her time at de la Cruz farms. Our volunteer families are examples of God's grace. It takes many hearts and hands to maintain the farm. We are grateful to all of you for allowing our Lord to work in you and through you to bless the families who come to the farm. The staff at the farm desired to feed our volunteers and families both spiritually and physically. This allowed us to host a volunteer appreciation event, the first of which was July 18. The Lord blessed us with enough funds from the benefit, private donations, and honey sales to be able to meet our annual projected budget. We want to thank Woodlands' Barbecue for their generous contribution of barbecue plates complete with fixings. We want to extend gratitude to all our friends who provided a variety of baked goods for this special event. It was a fun day of worship, thanksgiving, fellowship, horseback riding, and rest.

HONEY HARVEST

In 2015, the number of beehives at the farm jumped from 9 to 21. The anticipation of harvesting a spring flow of black locust was high. Due to its smooth taste, clarity, and difficulty to obtain, black locust is considered by some to be the holy grail of honey. The locust trees produced beautiful bloom, however the bees collected very little nectar for any significant black locust influence in the honey. Old timers say a good black locust honey harvest only comes around once every ten years.

The spring flow of honey produced mainly wildflower with a large concentration being blackberry. Next up in late June is the sourwood bloom. The flow was good at the farm, however not nearly as strong as in 2014. For an example, this year produced 68% concentration of sourwood in the summer harvest in comparison to 94% sourwood in 2014. All total, harvest was around 700 lbs. Thanks to all those who have supported the farm through the purchase of de la Cruz honey. Look forward to serving you in 2016.



CALDWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPECIAL NEEDS ADULT CLASS VISIT THE FARM....

This unique class wanted to do a field trip where they could enjoy animals while being outdoors. de la Cruz Farms fit the bill! We had an opportunity to share the gospel truth about God and His Son, Jesus. Our rich discussion was filled with prayer, testimonies and thought filled questions. Mrs. Cheryl's class participated with a variety of farm chores, learned about beekeeping and helped take care of horses. The class helped with pulling weeds from the gardens, feeding and watering the chickens, and grooming the horses. This was the first time that most of the adult students had ever petted, brushed or walked a horse. It was a thrilling time! Big smiles were on everyone's faces including the horses.

NEW FRIENDS TO THE FARM

The Lord has blessed us with several new animals at the farm this year. Our faithful friends and volunteers Mitchell and Tammy Gragg graciously donated a miniature horse whom we named BOGO (buy one get one). Mitchell and Tammy had bought a horse, and BOGO came with the horse whether they wanted him or not. They decided to share BOGO with the children and families at the farm. He has been complete delight and fun addition to the de la Cruz Farms family. His teachable spirit has made it easy to show him the natural horsemanship that we practice at the farm. Don't let his 38 inch size fool you – this pony has tons of personality and would love to meet you!



We've also added flock friends to the farm, which consist of 5 hens named Buzzy Bee, Lola, Wanda, Tilly, and Bee Balm. Everyday presents new opportunities on the best way to love and care for our feathery friends. The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting to meet and occasionally hold the hens at the farm.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Holly Townsend

My experience at de La Cruz Farm has been truly fulfilling for me. It started out as a distant vision for me as I would drive by this unnamed/unknown place on my way to a loathing job and I would imagine horses being there when in fact all that was there was an old barn and unclaimed pastures connected to a beautiful home with owners I did not really know.

Enter God.....My husband and I started attending a life group with a couple that lived close to us and wouldn't you know it just so happened to be at this place. A couple years have past since then and I have had the privilege to clean the pastures there both before and after it became de La Cruz Farm and have been asked to join the board of directors.

This has become a place of peace for me and the Brooks' and those I have met through them are my Christian brothers and sisters. The Lord has worked in my life by directing me to this place and to these people.



Holly is in the Green



BIBLE TRUTH LEADERS

In addition to the session facilitators, these leaders have the spiritual gift to share the gospel using four truths we teach at the farm. These bible truths are: the truth about God, the truth about sin, the truth about Jesus Christ, and the truth about man's response.

We are thankful to have had several volunteers come forward to share this spiritual gift and participate in being a bible truth leader. They play a vital role in our mission to share Jesus Christ with the children and families. In addition to sharing the gospel, these special volunteers also took the time to engage in prayer, conversation and listening to the beautiful children and families the Lord brought to the farm.

MEET THE INTERNS

Hey, this is Emma and Amber and we interned this past fall semester through Watauga High School. Interning at de la Cruz Farms has been a great experience for both of us. God has taught us many things along the way from learning about farm life to working with kids. A typical day for us included feeding the chickens, grooming the horses, and mucking the pasture. We worked with many of the volunteers and met a variety of people from the community. We both enjoyed our time interning at de la Cruz Farms and plan on continuing to volunteer.

By God's provision of private donations and prayers, sessions are provided at no cost to the family. Donations are tax deductible. If you are lead to partner with us in the Lord's mission through a one time electronic gift or a monthly electronic donation please use this link. Call us at 828-964-8152 for questions. Thank you for your prayers and your faithful consideration.

<https://connect.egiving.com/where-most-needed339/de-la-cruz-farms>



de la Cruz Farms

6696 Old 421 S

Deep Gap, NC 28618

828-964-8152

info@delacruzfarms.com

www.delacruzfarms.com