

THE LANDS AT



Plowing Forward Winter 2018/2019



Our Mission

The Lands at Hillside Farms is a historic, non-profit 501(c)(3), 412-acre educational dairy farm that teaches sensible and sustainable life choices which, if enough of us adopt, will allow those born in 200 years to inherit all the resources and opportunities we have now.

Visit us today!

The Lands at Hillside Farms
65 Hillside Road
Shavertown, PA 18708
570-696-4500

[CLICK HERE to visit our webpage](#)



Upcoming Events at Hillside Farms

One of Hillside's core beliefs is that it's essential to spend quality time with family and friends. We hope you can strengthen your relationships with visits to our farm.

January 1
First Day Walk
9am-11am

Join us by taking a stroll around our farm. We'll explore our current dairy barn and the construction site of the future Dr. Ayers' Dairy Barn, set to open early 2019. You'll learn more about Hillside's mission, history, vision for the future, and see some of our animals up close. Registration required. [CLICK HERE to register](#)

January 19
Pastured Pork BBQ
12pm-3pm

Our tasty BBQ sandwich is served with one side and one beverage for \$10. Hillside pork is pasture raised, antibiotic free, and delicious.

March 16
Rag Rug Workshop
9am-12pm

Gather your old sheets, a size 10 crochet hook, and join us at the Education Center. This wonderful community activity will teach you how to make colorful and sturdy rag rugs. No experience necessary. \$5 per person. Registration required. [CLICK HERE to register](#)

[CLICK HERE to see our online calendar](#)

The Hillside Cottage





One of the special places at our farm is the Cottage. It was built in 1881 by the Conyngham family of Wilkes Barre. It was originally designed to be used only in the summer months, as a cool respite from the city heat.

The cottage was built in stages. It initially had two floors but a third was added in 1890. In 1905, the home was modernized to include bathrooms, electricity and an elevator. The Otis birdcage elevator unfortunately is not in working order but is incredibly ornate. Today, the cottage has a total of 28 rooms and 11 bathrooms.

Visitors arrived via the gated entrance, through stone gates. The winding driveway allows a breathtaking view of the land, trees and home.

Entertaining must've been grand in the Gilded Age. The dining room table can extend to seat 30 people. The butler's pantry and corner closets once held enough place settings for 250 guests. The wrap around screened in porch is the perfect place to sit and gaze at the gorgeous valley. Behind the house is another sitting area in a Adirondack style pavilion.

The fireplace in the living room is constructed out of stones from the property. Additional fireplaces on the first floor are decorated with Dutch story tiles. Each tile is uniquely painted and they tell a children's story.

The family had a staff of 20 servants to help them live in and maintain the home. The staff included a housekeeper, maids, cooks, a seamstress, and groundskeepers. The servants quarters were in a separate part of the house and have a staircase that leads directly into the kitchen

In 2007 and 2008, grants allowed Hillside Farms to update the first

floor with new plumbing and electric. We repainted and had the parquet floors refinished. Parquet floors are incredibly detailed, mosaic patterns designed with thousands of pieces of wood and nails.

If you are interested in seeing the inside of our beautiful Cottage, consider attending our Christmas Tea and Tour on November 16 & 17, 2019. In addition to delicious holiday treats, we give a guided tour of the first two floors of the Cottage.

Recent Renovations



Thanks to the generosity of donors we have been able to improve several areas of our farm recently. Thank you to our customers for bearing with us as we make these improvements!

We are putting in a crosswalk across from the Carriage Barn. We care about visitor safety and the crosswalk will make it safer for families to cross Hillside Road. When completed, it will be ADA compliant and have LED lights. This project has been in the works for several years and we couldn't be happier to see it coming together! Our crosswalk was made possible through funding received from a USDA Rural Business Development Grant

In our production area, we've made several improvements and upgrades that will help us operate more efficiently. New cooler doors will extend the shelf life of our products. Adding a second ice cream machine will allow us to increase the diversity of flavors available.

Our Dairy Store had a new roof put on and new siding is going up too. The siding is made from local hemlock and will match The Mercantile. Both of these improvements will help us have a safer store, conserve energy and hey, our building now looks much better too!

[CLICK HERE to see a video of our milk bottler](#)

Hillside Farm's Happiness Habit for January is GRATITUDE!

This year at the farm, we'll be focusing on different happiness habits each month. We invite you to join us!

One of Hillside's core beliefs is that we should take good care of ourselves. If we positively change our lives, imagine the ripple effect that could have on others. Join us in our monthly challenges and help us to create a happier and healthier world!

In January, we will be focusing on gratitude. Research shows that gratitude can have profound effects on our well-being.

Benefits of a daily gratitude practice are plentiful, but here are some of our favorites:

- increases mood
- better sleep
- decreases depression and anxiety
- better relationships

We will have a gratitude jar in the Dairy Store during January. Please write a list of things you are grateful for and drop it in the jar while you're shopping. Continue this habit each day at your home. Watch and see how you respond to practicing this habit. By intentionally focusing on the positive things in life, gratitude does grow.

There is no wrong way to express gratitude but here are some hints to get you started:

- be as specific as possible; ex. I'm grateful for my friend Tom because he called me to see if I was feeling better. vs. I'm grateful for Tom
- If you get stuck, start with the phrase "Today I am grateful for...."
- Choose quality over quantity
- Try not to repeat
- Be committed to a daily practice but don't stress over it

[CLICK HERE to read about research on gratitude](#)

Recipe: Egnog French Toast

Eggnog French Toast is a special treat for the winter time! Our recipe is decadent but actually very simple! Most of the ingredients can be found at our Dairy Store. You'll find our cooler stocked with eggnog until Easter this year.



Ingredients from Hillside Farms:

- butter
- 6 eggs
- 1 loaf of your favorite bread
- 2 cups eggnog
- Pennsylvania maple syrup

Additional Ingredients:

- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- dash of nutmeg
- pinch of salt

Directions:

- Whisk together: eggs, eggnog, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt.
- Pour into a shallow dish.
- Dip bread into egg mixture and coat both sides.
- Place into a buttered frying pan
- Cook until bottom is golden brown
- Flip and cook until other side is also golden brown
- Serve with butter and syrup and enjoy!

Dr. Ayers' Dairy Barn Update



Our new dairy barn is coming along! The foundation walls are poured. Next up will be the pouring of the laneways. Weather is always a factor in any construction project but we're hoping to be complete by the end of February.

Our new barn will be a bed pack barn which puts cow comfort first. One of Hillside's core beliefs is to take great care of our animals and we believe this barn will help us continue to do that.

Traditional dairy barns have individual stalls for each cow. A bed pack barn is a large open area where cows have the freedom of movement and can lie down where they desire. Food and water will always be available. Our cows will continue to have plenty of access to outdoor pastures for exercise, sunshine, and fresh grass.

Currently, we spread manure on our fields to enrich our soil. In a bed pack barn, it will be tilled with wood chips creating soft and dry bedding. You could imagine the barn as one giant hamster cage! With daily tilling, the bed pack will continue to rise in depth over the year. Microbial activity will turn it into a nutrient rich compost material that we'll spread on our fields once a year.

We are so excited about our new barn and are so grateful for the donors who made it possible!

