



Harrison Daily Times • Friday, July 22, 2022  
Newton County Times • Wednesday, July 27, 2022

# FARM LIFE



*Rural Living in the Heart of the Ozarks!*



*Congratulations 2022 Boone & Newton County  
Farm Families of the Year!*



# Recognizing outstanding farm families since 1947

*The Harrison Daily Times and Newton County Times congratulates*

## *The Thomason & Willis Families on being announced the 2022 Farm Families of the Year!*

Since 1947, the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year program has served as a vehicle to recognize outstanding farm families throughout the state.

The objectives of the Farm Family of the Year program are:

- To give recognition and encouragement to farm families who are doing an outstanding job on their farms and in their communities;
- To gain recognition of the importance of agriculture in the community and state;
- To disseminate information on improved farm practices and management.

The Farm Family of the Year program is the longest



running effort of its kind in the nation.

The program sponsors are Arkansas Farm Bureau, Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, Farm Credit Services of Western Arkansas, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services and Farm Credit Midsouth.

Program partners are Arkansas Agriculture Department, Arkansas FFA Association, Arkansas Press Association, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, the U.S.

Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and USDA Rural

Development.

# Congratulations

## 2022 BOONE & NEWTON COUNTY FARM FAMILIES OF THE YEAR!



The THOMASON Family - Boone County



The WILLIS Family - Newton County

*From  
Everyone  
At ...*





# Are there good reasons for being a farmer?

Farming was among the earliest of civilized man's occupations, and it has been the main economic basis of every civilization down to fairly recent times. Among ancient peoples, the landowner was regarded, along with the warrior, as the most respected and honored of men.

Our own American civilization is grounded on the ideals of a simple agricultural society. Many of the Fathers of our country, such as Washington and Jefferson, were farmers and their outlook on life largely shaped the spirit of our Constitution and government.

Perhaps the first question which anyone who considers taking up farming as a career asks himself is: Do I like farming as a way of life?

According to its devotees, farming offers satisfactions not often found in other tasks. Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard, himself a farmer, told a meeting of the Future Farmers of America on October 10, 1944: "I like farming. It is a good life. After more than 30 years of it, I still would rather farm than do anything else. I envy you future farmers who have such great things ahead."

About ten years ago, Dr. O. E. Baker, a long-time student of agriculture, addressed a rural youth conference at the University of Illinois on the advantages of farm life. Dr. Baker—who may be regarded as a spokesman for the school of farming enthusiasts—said, "I have a son now less than 5 years old, and I hope when he grows up that he will decide to be a farmer." Dr. Baker's reasons for wanting his son to be a farmer were:

A farmer has more and better food to eat than have most people who live in cities.

- He is healthier and lives longer.
- He is likely to enjoy his work more than most city people do.



- He is more likely to rear a family and thereby promote the future welfare of the nation.

Let us examine briefly each of these points.

**• DO FARMERS EAT BETTER?**

As to the question of diet, Dr. Baker based his assertion on (1) a United States Department of Agriculture study, made in fairly prosperous times, of 2,400 farm families and (2) a study by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics of 12,000 workingmen's families in cities.

The farm families, it was found, were getting much more protein, calcium, phosphorous, and iron than was necessary for good nutrition. The city families, on the other hand, were getting barely enough protein and not enough calcium, phosphorous, and iron.

The farm folk ate much more meat, eggs, milk, and vegetables—which they often produced themselves—than did the city folk, who depended more on cereals. Of course, city families with large incomes get more adequate food than workingmen's families, but many farm people, if they moved to town, would undoubtedly fall into the latter class.

Of course, there are farm families who do not get a rich and varied diet, even in prosperous times like the present. In some agricultural areas there are farmers who have no gardens and keep no livestock. Some do not have enough cash income to buy adequate, wholesome food.

**• DO FARMERS HAVE BETTER HEALTH?**

It is often remarked that one sees many more old people in the country than in the city. Does this mean that rural people live longer, despite the poor sanitary facilities and the lack of doctors and hospitals?

According to a census study based on 1920 figures, a newborn city baby, if a boy, could expect to live, on the average, to the age of 52. If he was born on a farm, however, and stayed

REASONS cont. pg 10

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## CONGRATULATIONS 2022 Boone and Newton County FARM FAMILIES OF THE YEAR!



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**BOONE COUNTY**

Ava and Ruby (back row) help their parents, Amber and Josh Thomason around the family farm

# Thomasons are 2022 BC Farm Family of the Year

By DONNA BRAYMER  
donnab@harrisondaily.com

Josh and Amber Thomason and their daughters Ava 14 and Ruby 10 operate a family farm and were chosen as the Boone County 2022 Farm Family of the Year.



Donna Braymer/Staff  
Ava Thomason, 14, helps gather eggs on the family farm.

The Thomason's have 22 years invested in the family farm and started with 40 acres they owned and 30 they rented. Now the farm has grown to 360 acres they own and 240 they rent.

They have a 200 head cow/calf operation with eight bulls and five horses. The Thomasons mainly raise black Angus



Donna Braymer/Staff  
Ruby stands by Henry the steer who weighs about 1,200 pounds.

cattle.

Josh said, "We calve commercial calves to wean and sell each fall and spring. We also recently started a recip program, calving embryo transfers for outside entities. Most of these are raised to be show calves for 4-H and FFA projects in the junior livestock industry."

"My grandfather had registered cattle when I was a young boy. I always desired to be in the country raising and growing things. After I graduated from UofA with an Ag Business degree, I was able to come home and slowly build that plan by purchasing a house and thirty acres. My grandpa was able to help me build my horse barn on that land before he passed in 1999. I met my wife in 2003, she grew up farming and wanted the same for our future family. We married in 2006 and in 2010, after lots of rental places, growing pains, and hard work, we purchased the place we now call home. We are



Donna Braymer/Staff  
Ruby, Roxy and Ava Thomason enjoy working with their John Deere Gator around the family farm.

so blessed to raise our kids on this beautiful ranch. It's fun watching our girls learn and grow in this industry. Watching their own dreams take root," Josh said.

Ava and Ruby are also very involved in the family farm. The girls are members of 4-H and are members of the Arkansas Junior Cattlemen Association and numerous breed





The Willis Family of Parthenon. Standing inside the hay barn are from left - right: Shawn, Ashlyn, 9, Ellison, 5 and Chrystal Willis, along with one of the family dogs

## Farming is this Family's Tradition

By JEFF DEZORT  
Newton County Times



Jeff Dezort/Staff

Chrystal and Shawn Willis are pictured with a colt on their farm at Parthenon.

PARTHENON – Shawn and Chrystal Willis grew up on farms and they want their daughters, Ashlyn, 9 and Ellison, 5, to have that same experience. Whether or not they carry on that tradition if they have families of their own some day will be up to them.

Where else, but on a farm, can you play with chicks, ponies, lambs, puppies and other animals whenever you want? At this stage in the girls' lives it looks like the tradition will continue.

Maybe it is this continuation of a tradition in Newton County that counted most when the various county agriculture service representatives met earlier this spring to select the 2022 Newton County Farm Family of the Year.

Shawn and Chrystal have been farming or ranching for 14 years. They started small and today they own 65 acres. They also rent 110 acres on which they grow hay to feed to their cow and calf enterprise. Currently they have 20 head.

That's in addition to a brood mare and mule colt farm which consists of two mares, two mule colts, four riding mules and an American Mammoth Jack. They also have 13 head of ewes and lambs.

While the cattle and sheep are marketed at the local livestock auction the mules are marketed online and on social media.

Oh, there are more animals on the farm, including an assortment of poultry. There are laying hens, game hens, roosters, tur-

keys and ducks.

A kennel is also located on the farm where the family raises poodles, cocker spaniels, French bulldogs and different hunting dog breeds. The puppies are sold online and to a broker.

Shawn and Chrystal said they were both raised on a family farm. They said they love the farm lifestyle and it is honestly all they know.

Their ultimate goal is to raise their daughters the same way they were and to teach them the same things they were taught.

The Willises believe teaching succeeding generations how to provide for themselves and others, such as through livestock production, will preserve the future of farming.

“If our girls learn about hard work, caring for livestock and

*WILLIS' cont. pg 7*



Jeff Dezort/Staff

With one of the farm's ponies are from left, Shawn & Chrystal Willis with daughters, Ellison, and Ashlyn,.



THOMASONS cont. from pg 4

associations.

Livestock showing is a family affair. Ava won Supreme Overall Heifer at the local County Fair for the past four years. She also won Supreme Breeding Heifer at the Arkansas Youth Expo and Arkansas State Fair in 2021. Ruby prefers steers and has held on to her County Fair Steer Champion title the last two years.

Amber said, "We sell the steers at the end of a program to families to stock their freezer. The money from that sale is used to buy the next project. They have grown their own small

herds from the show animals they retire. They enjoy playing a role in breeding them back to improve the herd and see what they get when it calves. This has instilled a great work ethic in Ava and Ruby."

"We enjoy bringing in new animals each year and watching them and our kids grow throughout the season. We are very proud of our girls," Josh added.

The Thomason family is very involved in the Valley Springs School District and were thrilled to be chosen as this year's Farm Family of the Year.



Contributed Photo/Amber Thomason The family pickup is a staple around the Thomason Farm. Ava and Ruby (back) work with mom and dad, Amber and Josh Thomason with their dog, Roxy.



Contributed Photo/Amber Thomason Ava Thomason leads her award winning Angus heifer around the corral to train it for show.



Contributed Photo/Amber Thomason Everyone gets involved when it's time for shots.



Donna Braymer/Staff Ava Thomason stands with her award winning Angus heifer.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
2022 Boone and Newton County  
**FARM FAMILIES OF THE YEAR**



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BOONE COUNTY  
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WILLIS' cont. from pg 5

how to sustain the farming way, then that is the greatest achievement we could have ever accomplished," said Shane.

That is not to say farming isn't a challenge. Challenges come every day. The rising cost of fuel and a low beef cattle market have been the most recent challenges.

To off set revenue losses, the Willis family ventured into raising and selling what they call hobby and companion animals such as the mules and dogs.

Looking ahead the family wants to purchase more pasture land and expand the cattle and sheep operations. They also want to purchase a few more mares to raise more mule colts. In time they see more stalls and corrals around the barn. This will accommodate the lambing ewes and mares in foal.

Shawn was raised in a small farm in Parthenon where the family raised cattle, hogs, goats and chickens. As a youngster Shawn purchased goats and then cattle as he got older.

Chrystal was raised on a farm with a larger cow/calf operation of around 100 head of momma cows that got to run all over 300 acres.

Before they were married, the couple purchased 33 acres in Parthenon. There they placed their five cows and then bought a bull.

After marrying, they bought more cattle and inherited some land and hay equipment.

The Willis girls are active on the farm and are developing interests related to agriculture off the farm.

Ashlyn is active in the county 4-H program and has showed pigs and chickens at the county fair the last three years.

She helps her dad roll out hay for the cows and enjoys feeding and watering the mules.

Ashlyn is also an avid hunter. She helps her dad train their squirrel dogs.

Ellison may be the baby of the family, but that is why she has a special fondness for all the babies that live on the farm.

She likes to bottle feed orphaned lambs and wrangling the chicks, said Chrystal. The latter chore often ends up with Ellison being chased by a hostile hen!

The Willis family also play leadership roles in the small rural community where they live.

Shawn is a member of the Parthenon Volunteer Fire Department and sits on the fire board. He was recently appointed to the Parthenon Water Board. He is a deacon and song leader at Buffalo Church.

Chrystal has worked at Jasper School for 13 years and has been the Sunday school teacher at Buffalo Church for three years.



Jeff Dezort/Staff  
Chrystal Willis is pictured peeling potatoes for an evening meal.



Jeff Dezort/Staff  
Ellison, left, and Ashlyn Willis pretend to take the tractor out of the barn to survey the farms hay fields and livestock.

# CONGRATULATIONS

2022 Boone and Newton County  
**FARM FAMILIES OF THE YEAR!**



**THE THOMASON FAMILY**  
BOONE COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR



**THE WILLIS FAMILY**  
NEWTON COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
2022 BOONE & NEWTON COUNTY  
FARM FAMILIES!

<b>THOMASON FAMILY</b> BOONE COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR	<b>WILLIS FAMILY</b> NEWTON COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR
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# Junior Farmer Wyatt Reynolds takes on farming by ear

By JEFF DEZORT  
Newton County Times

**BEN HUR** — If its an old tractor engine that needs rebuilding or a piano that just needs tuning Wyatt Reynolds is your man. There is no telling what he can do once he puts his mind to it. Wyatt's can do approach, especially in the area of agriculture, apparently caught the attention of representatives from Newton County's various farm service agencies. They selected him as one of two Junior Farmers of 2022. Wyatt is a son of Glendell and Kelley Reynolds. He said he has always lived at the house on the family farm just off state Highway 16 not far from the state landmarks Pedestal Rocks and Kings Bluff. He has three siblings, Libby Hankins, 26, Bailey Reynolds, 22 and younger brother Ty Reynolds, soon to be 17. Wyatt, 19, graduated from Deer High School this past May and would like to continue his education at North Arkansas College learning how to repair outdoor power equipment. He thinks he might like to go into business for himself or with a friend who shares his interest in machinery. He thanked Glendon Garrison for being one of his mentors.

Attracted more to horsepower than horses, Wyatt prefers machinery over livestock on the farm. He grew up alongside animals, however. His grandparents operated a contract hog farm that was taken over by his mother until it closed in 2014. The farm has always had cattle and goats. Today it is home to about 45 black Angus cows and calves. The 160 acres was homesteaded and has a recorded history over 100 years.



Jeff Dezort/Staff

Wyatt Reynolds excels in mechanics and taught himself how to rebuild vintage tractor engines Here he is with his late grandfather's Massey Ferguson 135 tractor that he restored.

Wyatt said he was a member of FFA and served as the Deer Chapter president in his sophomore year. He never exhibited animals, he said, though he was a member of the poultry judging team that won third place in a statewide competition his junior year.

He would rather work on tractors. Wyatt said he liked to watch his dad work on the farm's equipment. "He's a good mechanic. He can fix anything," Wyatt said proudly. He said his father was a truck driver hauling feed for Tyson Foods. Today his parents are the owners of G&K Reynolds Co., a trucking firm.

Those sessions with his father and by watching YouTube videos, Wyatt has become a self-taught mechanic. He has rebuilt two farm tractor engines, one gasoline and the other a diesel. He even restored his late grandfather's Massey Ferguson 135 tractor. That model was produced from 1964 to 1975. Wyatt said he will be challenged learning how to work on the electronic computer systems incorporated in modern machinery.

Nothing costs a farmer more in time and money today than broken equipment, Wyatt says.

Wyatt likes to play music in his spare time. He is self-taught having learned to play the piano by ear. He makes money on the side as a piano tuner.



Jeff Dezort/Staff

Wyatt Reynolds, of Ben Hur, is one of two Newton County Junior Farmers for 2022. He is a 2022 Deer High School graduate and would like to learn how to repair modern outdoor power equipment.

## CONGRATULATIONS 2022 Farm Families of the Year!



**THE THOMASON FAMILY**  
BOONE COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR



**THE WILLIS FAMILY**  
NEWTON COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR



## CONGRATULATIONS, 2022 FARM FAMILIES OF THE YEAR!

**Josh & Amber Thomason**  
Boone County

**Shawn, Chrystal, Ashlyn & Ellison Willis**  
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# Junior farmer Klane Sisco going places showing cattle

By JEFF DEZORT  
Newton County Times

YARDELLE — Klane Sisco is going places. The Western Grove High School Senior enjoys showing cattle and has success doing so at the county, state and national levels of competition.

His many awards caught the attention of representatives of Newton County’s agriculture service agencies and they selected him as one of two Junior Farmers of 2022.

Klane is a son of Kevan and Michelle Sisco. His brother, Kendell, and sister Kortnie Cisco have also had interest in showing livestock from the family’s Sisco Farms which produce mixed breed cattle on its over 380 acres.

Klane was president of the Western Grove FFA chapter last year and was a member of its livestock judging team.

As an exhibitor he participated in the Newton County Fair in Jasper, the Arkansas State Fair in Little Rock and the Arkansas Youth Expo in Fayetteville. He has also spread out to jackpot shows. He exhibited a Charolais steer to win the best of breed division at the state fair. In 2019 he was a winning exhibitor at the Junior Nationals in Des Moines, Iowa.

Besides working with and exhibiting cattle, Klane said he likes working in construction. His father owns Sisco Metal Building Construction in Western Grove. Klane said after graduating from high school in 2023 he plans to enroll in construction courses at North Arkansas College. He said he also wants to pursue a career in livestock management.

He has a summer job with Willow Springs Cattle Co. out of Prairie Grove. Owner Eric Walker and Manager Cody Green produce commercial cattle along with some cattle exclusively for exhibition. They buy, sell and trade cattle for FFA students. Klane explained that the farm will provide a steer, buy it back and sell it. The farm provided him with his prize winning steer this year.

Klane said his father is his mentor in most things related to farming, but he also wants to thank Lance Haflich, of Mt. Home. Haflich serves as Klane’s adviser and prepares Klane for upcoming cattle shows.

Klane said he likes to hunt and fish whenever he gets the time away from school, the farm and livestock exhibitions.



Jeff Dezort/Staff

One of two Newton County Junior Farmers of the Year is Klane Sisco of Yardelle. He is a Western Grove High School senior who has had success exhibiting cattle at the local, state and national levels of competition.



Jeff Dezort/Staff

Klane Sisco, a senior at Western Grove High School, has made showing livestock a priority in his life. His awards have been many. The walls of his bedroom are covered with ribbons and banners from past competitions.



Contributed photo

Klane Sisco shows a reserve grand champion market steer at the Arkansas State Fair.

## Congratulations to the Willis Family 2022 Newton County Farm Family of the Year!



From left: Shawn, Ashlyn, Ellison, and Chrystal Willis, along with one of the family dogs.



From the Farm Bureau Board of Directors  
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REASONS cont. from pg 3

there, the chances are he would live to be from 56 to 60 years of age. For females, the expectation of life was 55 in cities and 60 to 62 on farms. In 1940 rural death rates were 10 per cent lower than urban.

These figures are not conclusive evidence, however, that the farmer lives in more healthful surroundings than does the average city man. Other surveys indicate that farm people are probably sick oftener than city dwellers. According to some authorities, a farmer is less likely than city folk to contract certain diseases, such as those of the circulatory, respiratory, and digestive systems. But he is more likely to contract diseases traceable to poor sanitation and inadequate medical care, such as typhoid, malaria, measles, whooping cough, influenza, and dysentery. As better sanitation and medical care are provided in rural areas, the farmer's disadvantage with regard to such diseases is certain to decrease.

• DO FARMERS ENJOY THEIR WORK MORE?

Whether working in the fields, orchard, or garden or taking care of livestock, farming involves many kinds of tasks and skills. In addition, a farmer usually has to keep his equipment in good shape; do repair jobs around the house, barn, and sheds; clear out brush and cut fuel wood; possibly keep drainage ditches open or mend roads; and do a hundred and one odd jobs.

Those who prefer work in the country to work in the city contrast these varied tasks with the monotonous job of the factory hand who performs the same operation at high speed, hour after hour and day after day; or with that of the white-collar worker, sitting at his desk all day long, often under artificial light and in a hot, stuffy room.

Industrial life, say the farming enthusiasts, is a relatively new experience for man. The modern type of factory and the crowded and grimy industrial city have only been in existence for about a century. It is true that a large portion of our population—and that of other industrial countries—has become adapted to the speedy tempo and inflexible routine. Some even enjoy it, but many do not and would flee from the city if they could.

It is true that nearly all of us feel deep kinship with nature—but the farmer lives with it. He is intimately connected with the cycle of life. Many envy him and long for a small plot of soil where they can at least plant and grow flowers and vegetables.

There is, of course, the old saying, "The farmer's day is never done." The chores on a farm are many and the monetary rewards often limited. But many farmers do not think of their occupation solely in terms of cash.

To till the earth, to plant seeds and watch them grow, to see the young shoots mature in the summer sun, and then to harvest the crop are, to many people, deep and rewarding pleasures. So is the intimate association with animals—cattle, horses or mules, chickens, pigs, or sheep—dumb creatures who serve

man well but who must be cared for tenderly and patiently.

These and other rewards of farming often compensate for a meager cash income, lack of household comforts, and constant worry about drought, frost, flood, or other unfavorable turns of the weather which may damage crops or ruin fields.

Those who prefer the city to the country have their answers to these arguments. Factory and office work, they say, may be less healthy and more nerve racking than farming. Cities may be noisy and crowded compared with the quiet and serenity of country life. But an urban environment is more stimulating mentally. Its social life is richer. It offers more opportunities for entertainment-organized sports, movies, and in some of the larger cities, legitimate theaters, symphony orchestras, operas, ballets, lectures, museums, and the like.

The city enthusiasts like to quote from Robert Browning: "Had I but plenty of money, money enough and to spare, The house for me, no doubt, were a house in the city-square; Ah, such a life, such a life, as one leads at the window there!"

"Something to see, by Bacchus, something to hear, at least! There, the whole day long, one's life is a perfect feast."



• IS FAMILY LIFE BETTER ON THE FARM?

Some sociologists say that the farmer tends to have a happier home life than the city man.

As a rule, farming is a family enterprise. The husband, wife, and children divide the labor, each doing what his or her strength and ability permit. By such teamwork, the family is knit into a tight and harmonious unit.

Because they work together as well as live together, farm families are generally more stable than urban families. This assertion is borne out by 1930 census figures which show that 19 per cent of family groups in cities were broken as against 14.7 per cent in villages and only 8.1 per cent on farms. According to the farming enthusiasts, family life and all it stands for seem to be more appreciated in rural than in urban communities, where people in normal times do not stay at home so much and outside distractions make the members of some families almost strangers to each other.

In answer to this, the city enthusiasts say that some farmers have more children than they can suitably provide for, and that the reason farm families tend to be more stable than urban families is that they don't know how to get away from each other.

• DO FARMERS EARN LESS THAN CITY FOLK?

Those who prefer city life often use as a final and supposedly clinching argument the fact that farming ordinarily brings a relatively small income in cash.

What farmers have earned in the past is no certain guide to the future, but it does throw some light on the matter. According to the farm census of 1940, more than half the nation's 6 million farm families had gross incomes of less than \$1,000. This figure includes both money derived from the sale of crops and the value of food produced on the farm for home use. One-third of the over 3 million farm families with less than \$1,000 gross income had supplementary earnings, usually because one or more members worked off the farm part of the year. But two-thirds had no such extra income.

Of course, farmers have been better off in the past four years than in the census year of 1940. Still, the high incomes commonly earned in other types of business are relatively rare in agriculture, except for the small percentage of farmers who work several hundred acres, keep large dairy or ranch herds, run huge fruit farms, and the like.

Those who prefer country life answer this argument by saying that, though city people generally earn more than farmers, they have to spend more. The cost of living is higher in urban than in rural areas. Rent is more; food costs more; it is necessary to have more clothes; and miscellaneous expenses are unquestionably greater.

But, ask the proponents of farming, is there as much solid satisfaction in such expenditure? Isn't much of it devoted to "keeping up with the Joneses"?

Some economists even assert that the average farmer accumulates more wealth in his lifetime than the average city resident and that hence the farmer's real income is higher than the city man's.

Thus the arguments go back and forth, arguments which have doubtless been heard since cities first arose and the attractions of urban existence began to draw folk away from quiet, simple, country haunts.

From EM 35: Shall I Take Up Farming? (1945)

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# Two places to experience farm life vacations

Secluded cabins and camping are often the draw when people think about a vacation where they can surround themselves with nature and the activities that go with it. Here are two places that give city dwellers all that, plus the feel of farm life.



### DOGWOOD HILLS GUEST FARM

All ages can enjoy this unique, hands-on farm experience in the small town of Harriet. It's a working homestead farm where you stay in your own private, spacious, and fully-equipped farmhouse. There are opportunities to get your hands dirty helping in the barn – milk goats and cows, groom Pollywog (the mini horse), collect fresh eggs, and feed the animals (cows, horses, goats, sheep, rabbits, chickens, ducks and, of course, dogs and cats).

You can also hike among the goats free-ranging in 40 acres of fenced in wooded trails and take a class in the farm's certified teaching kitchen. Or, if you'd rather just watch what it takes to make the farm run, you can sit on the deck and look out over the pastures from the hot tub.

Those aren't your only choices. You can also explore the area's great hiking trails, float the Buffalo National River, jump into the local swimming hole, go mountain biking, or site and watch the abundant birds and wildlife. Visit [www.thefarmex.com](http://www.thefarmex.com) for more info.



### HORSESHOE CANYON RANCH

This ranch near Jasper is nestled in the Ozark Mountains amid some of the most beautiful country that Arkansas has to offer. Horses, goats and Longhorn cattle can be seen wandering about the 350 acres of Horseshoe Canyon Ranch. Log cabins and a lodge blend into the environment. Forested hillsides that also contain sandstone cliffs are separated by a long, scenic valley and open pastures.

A western dude, HCR offers trail rides, hiking, canoeing on the Buffalo National River, rock climbing, a zip line, skeet shooting, archery, wagon rides, elk viewing, cookouts and more. Additionally, there is a petting zoo, fishing pond, disc golf, swimming pool, hot tub, and games in the lodge and barn. Its all-inclusive rates cover lodging, great meals, and activities for all ages with discounts for groups.

Get ready for the smells of leather and livestock, making new friends, and the whoops and hollers of cowboys wrangling the stock to the day pen. It's an old-fashioned western experience with memories to last a lifetime. Visit [www.horseshoecanyondunderanch.com](http://www.horseshoecanyondunderanch.com) for more info.

*source: arkansas.com*

# CONGRATS!

Say Hello to:  
**Boone County's 2022  
 Farm Family of the  
 Year:**

Thank you to the  
 Thomason Family for  
 being an outstanding  
 example to all Arkansas  
 Farmers!



MEMBER  
**FDIC**



# Congratulations & Best Wishes

## 2022 Boone and Newton County Farm Families of the Year!



**THE  
WILLIS  
FAMILY**

**NEWTON  
COUNTY FARM  
FAMILY OF THE  
YEAR**

**THE  
THOMASON  
FAMILY**

**BOONE COUNTY  
FARM FAMILY  
OF THE YEAR**



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