

# Family Fun at Farm-Fest

Life on an early 20th century Oklahoma farm will be showcased during Fall Farm-Fest, Saturday, October 12, from 9-3, at the Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm.

Visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to admire the restored antique tractors, pet a farm animal, tour an historical home, and watch "pioneers" do farm crafts.

Members of the Arkansas Valley Antique Tractor Club will display a variety of tractors and farm equipment in the farm's new display barn. They will also show visitors how the now strange-looking equipment was used.

Sorghum was once a staple of the farm kitchen, and neighbors gathered together each fall to press the sorghum cane and cook the juice. This friendly atmosphere is recreated at Farm-Fest.

At Farm-Fest, an antique sorghum press, powered by draft animal, will extract the juice. Senior citizen and experienced sorghum cooker Delmar Robinson, assisted by the Kerr Center's Alan Ware, leads the crew who will tend the sorghum in a traditional copper pan over a wood fire. Cooking the sorghum juice down to a thick, sweet, deep brown syrup is an art.

Other activities planned for this year's festival include: Dutch oven cooking, making butter, soap, and sauerkraut, weaving baskets, quilting, spinning cotton, and hay rides.

The Overstreets were prosperous farmers

and the fourteen-room home they completed in 1895 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Other farm buildings such as the barn, chicken house, potato house and smoke house will also be open to visitors. (The house is accessible to the handicapped.)

The farm is located ten miles south of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, on highway 59. For more information contact Jeremy Henson at 918.966.3396 or at [okhfarm@crosstel.net](mailto:okhfarm@crosstel.net).

Admission to Farm-Fest is five dollars for adults and three dollars for school-age youth, under six free. Proceeds support year-round free educational programs at the farm.

School classes may attend Farm-Fest for Kids on Friday, October 11. The day is free but admission must be reserved, either by calling or e-mailing the farm.



## Equipment Rolling In to Overstreet Farm

Development Manager Jim Combs has been accepting donations and loans of farm equipment used from 1890 to 1940 for a new exhibit at the historical farm. He particularly wants to acquire hay balers and grain production equipment (John Deere, if possible) to display in a new 38- by 80-foot barn built last summer.

Some recent acquisitions include a 1930's corn binder donated by Dennis G. Peters of Deer Creek, OK, and a 1917/18 John Deere hay press loaned by Bill Hardin of Cameron, OK.

The new exhibit will be unique in that it will help tell the story of farm life in southeast Oklahoma in the early years of the 20th century, helping to educate schoolchildren and others about their farming heritage.

Due to time constraints, only easily restorable or already restored equipment will be accepted. A limited amount of funds are available to purchase equipment.

Donations are tax-deductible. For more information contact Jim Combs at 918-966-3282 or [cjim@crosstel.net](mailto:cjim@crosstel.net).