

Summer Tour in Review

Another successful Kentucky YFA Summer Tour is in the books! The 2018 Summer Tour was hosted by Jessamine County YFA. On Friday morning, participants had the opportunity to visit the equine side of White Tail Heaven Outfitters. The horse operation is building a reputation of producing high-quality race horses.

After a lunch at Jessamine CTC provided by the Jessamine County Cattlemen's, participants visited Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park and Marksbury Market. Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park is on its way to becoming Kentucky's first National Monument. Camp Nelson served as a federal restocking post during the Civil War. However, it later transitioned into a union recruitment post for African American soldiers and refugee camp for slaves seeking emancipation.

Marksbury Market is a meat processing facility and market. Marksbury focuses on pasture raised meats that are also free of antibiotics and hormones. In addition to their on-site market, Marksbury also markets their meats to local restaurants and provides custom processing. Marksbury has the capability of processing cattle, hogs, sheep, chickens, and even llamas.

On Friday evening, all participants returned to Jessamine CTC for dinner and entertainment. The meal was catered by Loudon Square and the group was entertained by local comedy/music duo, The Moron Brothers.

Summer Tour continued on Saturday morning at the White Farm. The White Farm operates a 400 head commercial cow/calf operation, a 125 head cow/calf purebred cow/calf purebred Angus farm, and over 1,000 stockers. Every fall, the Whites host a bull sale directly on the farm. Although auction attendees can view the bulls at any time, the bulls are actually showcased on a video screen, as opposed to a sale ring.

An old rock quarry was the next stop during the tour. What started as an old mine in the 1850s, has now transitioned into two businesses: High Bridge Spring Water and Kentucky Underground Storage. High Bridge Spring Water was being bottled in the early 1980s, before bottled water was a "thing". Today, the company bottles between 20,000-25,000 gallons a day. Kentucky Underground Storage started as a boat and RV storage facility but has now added document storage in a secure, safe, and controlled environment.

Participants also had the opportunity to visit High Bridge, the first cantilever bridge built in the United States and is still used for rail transport. The bridge crosses the Kentucky River and connects Jessamine and Mercer Counties.

Summer Tour ended at the High Bridge Park and Pavilion. The kids had the opportunity to play at the playground while everyone else enjoyed a peaceful lunch in the pavilion.

Thank you to Gary Burdine and the Jessamine YFA for planning a successful, informative, and fun Summer Tour. There were over 130 registered participants from 18 different chapters. Until next year in Murray, Kentucky.....

