



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Farming in the Valley: 2011 Oral History Project

The following is a transcript from one audio clip in the **Life on the Farm** section. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/cuva/historyculture/life-on-the-farm.htm> to view the entire page. *Laura DeYoung talks about seasonal activities and events on The Spicy Lamb Farm.*

Seasonal Farm Activities

“The activities vary throughout the year. This time of year, in the spring, we’re very busy with lambing, getting the spice garden, the herbs and vegetables, planted. We’re at the height of our ag-tourism right now with the Easter holiday. I suppose I mentioned we have our *big* ag-tourism activity in the spring called The Blessing of the Sheep, which is when we also do a sheep shearing demonstration, when we shear all of our own sheep . . . we shear all our sheep, then have a Border Collie demonstration, and then we have a priest bless them because, even if you’re not Episcopalian like we are, everybody appreciates their sheep being blessed for the meat aspect of it. The other ethnic groups also appreciate that. And we have bagpipes and all that. So that’s our spring activities. Summer is kind of slow and quiet. Um, we’re just monitoring the crops growing and taking care of the sheep. We don’t do . . . well, we have a few activities. We’ll have a Border Collie training clinic. We’ll have . . . this year we’re doing a . . . it’ll be new, it’s a bit odd, but we’re doing a, um, for Midsummer’s Eve we’re gonna have a fairy festival or Midsummer’s Eve-type festival, and then we’re gonna be part of the Peninsula Fiber Fling in August. Obviously we’ll be harvesting the herbs and vegetables as they become available, and culling the males . . . lambs . . . as they come of age, and then in the fall we also have . . . in the future when our orchard matures, we’ll be very busy, but it’s not mature yet. But we also have some actors and activities in the fall that we provide. Pick your own pumpkins and hay rides, that kind of thing. The farm is very beautiful in the fall. And then in the winter time . . . well, the people who don’t have livestock probably take a break. ~laughs~ We’re very busy keeping everybody maintained over the winter and making sure we have our . . . everybody fed and warm. And then we purposefully do separate our ram so that we don’t have lambing during the height of the cold weather because we try to live in harmony with a pack of coyotes behind the farm, and we don’t want to temp them when they’re very hungry at that time of the year.”