

Shepherd's Croft Ways

Pick an option:

1. Broody Hen: You don't see me and I don't see you (unless you need help)
2. Barn Owl: You watch me do all the work that goes along with running our farm.
3. The Clydesdale: You do the work right alongside me (of course, you pick the jobs).

Begin with the front door key. Turn it to the left. **detail:* it came from a hotel and is the little 'bling' in the otherwise very primitive cabin. It usually stays locked. I do have an extra key, if needed.

You will see two floor looms at this time in the Shepherd's Croft. The one in the bedroom is for you, if you would like, to weave a rug. Realistically, it could take 1-2 hours to make, start to finish. You have to choose your colors, or go with the same yarn for the entire rug, weave it, which is called the weft. Then you will take your rug off the loom and tie the ends so it doesn't come apart! **detail:* This loom was given to me by Victor Besko. I would call him my 88 year old boyfriend. He became a friend of our family after he donated his flock of goats to us once he hurt his shoulder. Soon after his goats came here, his wife of 50 years, passed away and Victor needed someone to help him sell her spinning and weaving equipment. I helped Victor to do this and he gave me this loom. Notice it does not have any screws holding it together. It was made by a high school somewhere near Boone, NC

The other smaller loom in the front room is for larger projects that you would design and measure your warp, sley the reed, bring warp ends through the heddles, and so on. This one could take several days, but is possible. This is an extra charge because I would help you all the way through.

The heat source. There is a thermostat in the front room, on the wall about 5 ft. high to the right of the bedroom door. It controls the propane stove in the front room. There is a portable electric heater in the bathroom if needed. I have recently put a handwoven rug on the kitchen floor because I realized in the winter, the floor may be chilly. Put this rug wherever you like.

The shower. To work the shower, turn the shower knobs that are waist high on the copper pipes to the left, they will come to a stop, turn one more time to the left, the water comes on. We have a tank less water heater which I think is quite comical. It's also called an instant water heater, I believe, but it takes about two minutes to give you hot water; I know cuz I timed it. ☺

The soap samples are handmade from a friend of mine and you are more than welcome to take one of your choosing.

I do not have shampoo and conditioner for guests. There are sooo many different varieties on the market, hard to pick one.

The rug on the bathroom floor is an example of what you could weave in a couple of hours on the floor loom in the bedroom.

The Bedroom. There is a ledge going from the floor loom area to the bed. **detail:* the area where the bed is was the old porch. Jerry Mooney's family enclosed it and thus an extra room. (read the story of how we came to buy and live here and how Jerry's family got here on our farm website: www.JehovahRaahFarm.com)

Towels and Sheets are in the dresser in front of bed. Feel free to take off the comforter because the wool blanket might be enough warmth for you.

**detail:* The bedroom curtains are actually the original flour sacks that I found in a barrel in the barn. I wanted to use them but just couldn't

bring myself to cut them. I love the sun coming into a room, so, if you would like to be awoken by the sun each morning, put the curtains up one level and slide the pole, which is a tobacco stick, into the yellow loop about halfway up the window. If you want to close up the entire window, then bring up the muslin pinstripe cloth to the hooks at the top of the window. This will curtail the sunshine coming into the bedroom in the morning. **detail:* This muslin pinstripe curtain is actually the original sheets also found in those same barrels in the barn. I do have a set of those old muslin sheets if you would like them to be on your bed, you may. 'Comfort' or 'old timey' which do you prefer? Remember now, this is an experience 'back in time'.

Next: The kitchen. The refrigerator is actually an original. It is not a reproduction, which sadly doesn't have an up to date large freezer. I do have a cooler in the back 'Spring box' room, which you are more than welcome to use. Sooner or later, we will bring 'back to life' the spring box which is in the room off the kitchen. You may notice a pipe coming out of the side wall to the left of the door. The spring water would coming into the lower box and cool the food, and then exit out the pipe in the bottom left of the cement box. Pretty cool. Hopefully, in a year, that project will be finished and useable 😊. If you do need a freezer, there is a freezer in the horse barn, down in the lower pasture which you see off the deck.

The kitchen table was made from the original siding from the house up the hill, where we live now. The table legs are locust stakes found on our farm. The connectors are really cool items that I found on our farm.

I have small items as can opener, bread maker, popcorn popper, a propane grill on the deck, toaster, iron, hair dryer, mayonnaise packets, ketchup and mustard jars, sugar, salt/pepper,

other spices as cinnamon, garlic, (I will check others and edit).

You may use our crock pot and rice cooker if you would like. I have these at our house and would drop off to you.

Deck: The buffet table is made from a slab of Sassafras tree (not from our farm but from a close friend) but the table legs are tree roots from trees that have died on our farm.

Berry Arbor: in the works. There is a table and two iron chairs out there, but the berry tree arbor is a work in progress. A place for your to sip coffee or tea in the quiet morning or glass of Merlot in the evening 😊.

We have a lot of farm animals here at Jehovah Raah Farm, one of which being Guinea Fowl. They have chosen to roost in the tree at the ewe barn and they choose to start 'calling' at 7 am., just to let you know. I asked some guests if they heard them, and they said they could. They are a nature alarm clock, and to me, they are a beautiful sign of nature. These Guineas can live up to 10-15 years and are amazing to watch. Throughout the day, they graze the entire area of the farm, like little soldiers, ridding the pastures and grass areas of ticks and insects. 😊

Tours: If you choose the Barn Owl or Clydesdale option for your stay, the best way to do this is come with me when I feed. I do this in the am (anyway from 7:00 to 9:30am and again around late afternoon, before it gets dark.) But, I have fed in the dark plenty of times. If I am smart, my headlamp is charged and lights my way. It is really cool to be here when there is a full moon and snow is on the ground...perpetual lighting!

You may see all the animals with me as I feed or schedule a time that I am not with you but I know you are walking around (safety); to sit on a gigantic rock, have a picnic under the huge Cedar tree, be on top of the highest pasture to overlook all, or explore the pond back in the

woods. We have a herd of Scottish Highland Cattle that I can take you to see in our Kabota (like a enclosed 4 wheeler). That is the pasture that you may not go into by yourself because of the size of the animal. Cattle are obviously huge and unpredictable. You are welcome to see them with me, but not along. (again safety).

The essence of building things around here is this: *How would have the Mooney's done it way back when if they had to fix something?*

Agricultural NC Law: General Assembly of NC
Session 2005-236 House Bill 329:

Under North Carolina law, there is no liability for an injury to or death of a participant in an agritourism activity conducted at this agritourism location if such injury or death results from the inherent risks of the agritourism activity. ... You are assuming the risk of participating in this agritourism activity. The complete law: as states: