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Friendly farming sites welcome groups to the Midwest

by Zachary Chouteau

BONNYBROOK FARMS, CLARKSVILLE, OHIO

Bonnybrook is a family-owned farm that organizes some unforgettable experiences for groups ranging from 25 people to 2,500.

Among their most popular offerings are a Chuck Wagon Dinner Ride that features a barbecue dinner at the Gathering Barn and an authentic chuck wagon ride to Todd Fork Creek, where attendees can roast s'mores around a roaring fire. Other fun includes a Lantern Light Wagon Ride, where a group becomes familiar with the trappers, Indians and settlers of the past, portrayed by seasoned theater actors.

Yet another group gathering can be an Old-Fashioned Picnic at the farm, with private access to the entire farm, ample seating indoors and alfresco, and even hayrides and a smokehouse barbecue.

"We pay close attention to detail with all events," says proprietor Bonnie Mercuri. "The Chuck Wagon Dinner is served on enamelware and coffee in tin cups; and the Lantern Light Wagon Ride is a historically accurate family-friendly depiction of the 150-year anniversary of the Civil War in Ohio."

Other diversions include a giant slingshot, a catch-and-release fishing pond and endless family fun that includes a petting barn and lengthy underground slide.