

Testimonials for the MO Farm Tour

(All testimonials are direct quotes from e-mail received regarding the Tour.)

Gladhour Farm of Chillicothe, MO wrote...

YES, I'm interested!!! I would be perhaps nearer the west than the east side of the north part of the state, but I guess you would want to just schedule nearer to the time. Time I need help a lot is June sometimes (so that I can go to the national mtg of my breed of cattle) but any time help is welcome and needed. I have always hoped to get a chance to meet and even feed some WWOOFer(s)--with garden stuff that I could find and grassfed beef from my animals--but it may take me til you get here to improve the accommodations. I also imagine taking a WWOOFer around to other interesting farms and to a "grazing group" meeting or two. I'll see if I can get your links to work. Thanks for the email!

Mica of Sandhill Farm in Rutledge, MO wrote...

Hi Mike,

your tour sounds intriguing. we'd likely be happy to host you, though your NEMO dates are following up on our sorghum harvest season, when we host a lot of friends to help us out- and sometimes we get burned out. keep in touch, and we'll figure things out as you see how it's going.

mica
Sandhill Farm

Todd Geisert of Geisert Farms in Washington, MO wrote...

I would have some work for you between may and aug if that works into your time frame let me know?

Liz Graznak of Happy Hollow Farm in Jamestown, MO wrote...

Hi Mike,
I'd be thrilled to host you/the Farm Tour and any other folks that end up joining you. Please let me know when you'll be in the midwest.
Cheers,
Liz

Pieter Los of Wil Farm in Hermann, MO wrote...

Mike, Pieter in Hermann here, back from Holland, now slaving away at work...

I could actually really use some help~ I am building a pole barn thing, over a cooler, and need to get the roof on it. Figure about a days work, but definitely a two person job. Transport and lodging and food is no problem. I have other things to do too, need to get ready for 200 laying hen day old chicks and small machine prep, and a high tunnel that needs prepping for this spring, and seeds that need sorting and ordering. Quite a few farms around here, and a germinating food coop. You may like it around here. As said earlier, I work, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday night from 7 to 7 so from Wednesday afternoon onwards, till Sunday would be good for me. Let me know, the email plos@ktis.net or you can call at home: 5732524935 or at work, 5734862191, keep asking for the lab.

C u around, Pieter

Debi Kelly of the Missouri Alternatives Center (MAC) in Columbia, MO wrote...

Mike, I have cc'd Darvin Green, Lincoln University Extension, in SE MO who may be able to find you a farm or two to work on in the SE part of the state. Shon Bishop, also with Lincoln University Extension in SW MO, may be able as well. Both Darvin and Shon work with the socially disadvantaged farmers and no doubt your help for these farmers for 2 weeks would be of great benefit.

Thanks!

Is your farm growing? Ask me about the Grow Your Farm course.

Debi Kelly, Extension Associate
University of Missouri
234 Ag Eng Bldg Columbia MO 65211

Rhonda Fischer of Lost Spur Ranch in Leslie, MO wrote...

Hi Mike! I have been out of town for about 6+ weeks now. I spent some time in Austin with my kids. So now I am back at the ranch gearing up for spring. I don't know what your schedule is looking like but my ranch would welcome you anytime.

Right at the moment I am needing business/computer assistance. Give me a call and let's chat. Hope things are going well in your world! Talk soon --Rhonda

Annie Albright of Bright Hope Farm in Hughesville, MO wrote...

Hi Mike,

How's the tour going? Have you got a schedule put together yet?

I could really use some help here the last couple of weeks of March and the first couple of weeks in April. I thought since you've been here before you might be the best wwoofer for the job, You see, I have been asked to accompany my parents on an all expenses paid trip to Charleston SC the first week of April. I would actually be gone 9 days I think. My mom doesn't like to fly and it hurts my ears REALLY BAD so we would rather drive.

If this is something you would be interested in and can work into your schedule let me know. I need to get everything planned out asap so I will know who will take care of the animals and some early gardening stuff.

Hope all is going well with you and hope to hear from you soon.

Annie
Bright Hope Farm

Matt Maes of Little Sprouts Farm near Excelsior Springs, MO wrote...

Hi Mike,

Do you think this program might exist in 2013? I might be interested in something like this next year!

(con't...)

I'd love to learn more, and stay in the loop, so feel free to add me to the email list.

How many volunteers would stay at a host farm? I ask because room & board would be the primary challenge. Maybe once I've learned a little more and given this a little more thought we can schedule a interview. Thanks!

Matt Maes
Little Sprouts Farm, north of KCMO near Excelsior Springs

Cindy Shannon of Horse Travel B & B in Buffalo, MO wrote...

We would like more information as a farm that always needs a helping hand and would gladly exchange it for room and board.

Steffie Littlefield of Edg-Clif Farm & Vineyard in Potosi, MO wrote...

Hi to the Missouri Mules;

Love the name and your volunteer project. Edg-Clif Farms & Vineyard is a third generation Missouri Farm that my sister, Cyndy, and I have converted to a vineyard and winery in the last 5 years. We have lots of Farm chores that we are trying to keep up with between the 2 families. We would welcome the opportunity to share our home, farm experience and work with interested and sincere visitors. Tasks would include vineyard work like harvesting, planting and pruning. I also have an extensive vegetable garden to care for and multiple fences that need repairing that were damaged in recent high winds/tornado events. We are also about to embark on a barn renovation project. To learn more about us go to www.edg-clif.com. Check out vineyard photos and our blogs. Other questions I have are; when does this tour occur or is it on going, how do we find out if tour participants are heading our way, etc?

Thanks, Steffie Littlefield

Alyson Ewald of Red Earth Farms in Rutledge wrote...

Hi Mike,

Thanks for contacting Red Earth Farms. Your project looks inspiring and fun. I especially enjoyed reading the Fields of Study on your website.

Your map showed Sandhill Farm as a site you'd like to visit, and I do recommend it highly. While volunteers are up here in Rutledge I think both Dancing Rabbit ecovillage and our community Red Earth Farms could be destinations for them too. Here at Red Earth we have six homesteads each exploring a slightly different version of sustainable farming and land management. And hosting a willing volunteer for a little while might be a good thing, given the right person at the right time.

The only hitch is that while many of us are still building our own housing and none of us have garages we are typically short on "spare bedrooms" in which to house volunteers. In a pinch we could maybe offer one or two people space under a roof, but neither of those spots is a private room. If you have any volunteers who do not mind camping, we do have some excellent tent platforms. And feeding them would not pose a problem.

If this sounds like something you would want to explore, please let me know and we can talk further. Or you can call me at 660-883-5329. Thanks, Alyson

Connie Sayersbrook of Sayersbrook Bison Ranch in Potosi wrote...

Are you aware of our county-wide farm tour that we hold the last weekend of August. We just held our 4th farm tour and it is catching on. We also have a farm dinner with the event to earn funding for an agricultural scholarship. Please check out our website www.homegrownfarmtour.com. Perhaps we can hold this in conjunction with you or you could help us promote it. Somehow we should be able to work together on it. By the way, Edg-Clif Winery and SayersBrook Bison Ranch share a road together and our bison run on their property as well as ours.

Please put bison on your field of studies. My husband, Skip Sayers, has held several tours addressing the topics of conservation in bison ranching. He is a past president of the National Bison Association and SayersBrook has been the sight of several national bison conventions. Skip was a pioneer in the early bison industry during the 70's and 80's and is still involved in the national marketing of bison.

Thanks for your consideration.

Kim Wells of Wells Family Farm in King City, MO wrote...

Hi Mike and thank you for the information. At this time we are still upgrading and expanding in many ways and are not ready for any company. Soon, though you will hear from us. Good luck with this and I will spread the word. Kim Wells

Molly Rockamann of EarthDance Farm in Ferguson, MO wrote...

Hi Mike,

It was nice meeting you at the Schlafly Farmers Market a week ago. I checked out your site, and it sounds like you've been very busy putting all of this together! It sounds like a great project. Let me know if there's something in particular you'd like feedback on, or how EarthDance can assist in your efforts.

Thanks,
Molly

--

Molly Rockamann
Founding Director, EarthDance
www.earthdancefarms.org

Carol Springer of Meramec Farm in Bourbon, MO wrote...

Hi Mike,

What a wonderful idea!

We currently participate in similar programs via Workaway and Helpex. This year's volunteers have come from France, Sweden, Germany, Great Britain, New Zealand, S. Africa, U.S., etc.

My October volunteer just had to cancel due to health problems and I'm looking for a good hand with horses to assist in feeding, care, grooming, and riding. Individual would need experience as well as ability to meet new folks who come to ride with us.

We're located about 75 mi. SW of St. Louis on the Meramec river.

Best wishes in your endeavors!

Carol

www.meramecfarm.com

Wendy of Willow Mountain Mushrooms in Tecumseh, MO wrote...

I am interested and will be calling you in a couple of weeks.

I absolutely LOVE the pics at the bottom of this page:

<https://www.sites.google.com/site/mofarmtour/gallery/before-after>

if that isn't the truth I don't know what is?! LOL

Thanks for the laugh!

Wendy

Willow Mountain Mushrooms

Marian at Five Ponds Farm in Thomasville, MO wrote...

Hi Mike,

This seems like a fantastic thing. Can't wait to check it out!

Emma Benne Hohenberger of Hohenberger Fine Foods in California, MO wrote...

Mike, this sounds like a very interesting program. Can you tell me how you are handling potential liability of the volunteers? Are you having a lot of interest in people who are signing up for the room and board type volunteering?

(con't...)

Mike, my husband is an attorney and we farm/run our business together so he has a good understanding of this sort of thing. I copied him on this email- his number is 573-680-2867 if you want to visit with him. I think your program could be helpful, we had considered looking into hiring an intern or two and we have an apartment onsite for someone to live in or visit (we are moving our farm to Hartville, MO) so I would be interested in talking to you when you have the details worked out. I do, however, have concerns about the liability and would want to have some role in screening anyone that came to the farm for anything more than a visit. Thanks for letting me know about this and please keep me posted as things move along.

Thanks,
Emma Benne

Eric & Joanna Reuter of Chert Hollow Farm in Boone County, MO wrote...

Mike,

This is an intriguing idea, and one that we're potentially interested in. This is also a very busy time of year for most farmers like us, so we can't put a lot of thought or time into it right now. You might consider another effort to contact people like us over the winter. We would not be able to house people for an extended period of time, but are open to considering options for short-term participation. Please keep us on your contact list for future developments.

Eric & Joanna Reuter
Chert Hollow Farm, LLC
Boone County, MO

Lauren Christians of Trokey Family Farm in Stanton, MO wrote...

hello mike!

my name is lauren, i'm a managing partner at trokey family farm. i've visited your website and am interested in the concept.

we are winding up our first year growing produce using traditional methods and a large aquaponic system. at this time i'm not really organized to accept volunteers, we're getting everybody ready for winter. this winter we are heating the greenhouse and growing produce for a juice bar and as well as a bi-weekly market. in the spring, we should have plenty to teach. i'll be beginning my first experiment in raised bed permaculture in a 1.5 acre field using companion planting, continuing the establishment of our berry brambles, planting an orchard, establishing honey bees, and expanding our laying flock. i'll have lots of 1 day hands on projects. in the summer and fall, i will have to harvest at least 3 hours everyday just to keep up.

our area has a fairly established sustainability community. a friend of mine is the proprietor of eco-base camp on route 66 (a former koa) and has offered it as housing for any volunteers of woofers that we have coming through.

we are hosting an aquaponics workshop on sunday sept 30 for a nominal fee of \$5. <https://www.facebook.com/events/474416829248122/> feel free to pass it along if you know anyone interested. it's going to be a great networking opportunity for people interested in sustainability. so far i've gotten responses from at least a dozen locals and as far as kirkwood. anywho, thanks for the info. keep me posted on what you're planning, we're all about community involvement and sharing knowledge.

cheers!

lauren christians
freshveggie.co

Linda Hezel, Ph. D., of Prairie Birthday Farm in Kearney, MO wrote...

Hi Mike,

I am intrigued by your proposal and would be willing to discuss possibilities. References are required.

Just let me know the best time to reach you. I believe a phone conversation would be helpful.

Linda Hezel Ph.D., R. N.
Farm Steward/Artisanal Producer
Prairie Birthday Farm LLC
Exquisite Flavor/Healthy Food
www.prairiebirthdayfarm.com

Chuck Granger, Ph. D., of Boone Hollow Farm in Defiance, MO wrote...

Hi Mike:

It is great to hear from you. I am sorry that you had hurt your knee. It sounds like you are recovery very well.

I checked out the websites. They are great looking and well thought out. Let me know how I might help promote your efforts.

The outhouse is doing great. No one has initiated it yet so it not only looks good but smells good as well.

Best wishes,
Chuck Granger.

Al Benner of Old School Farm in Honesdale, PA wrote...

sorry to hear about the knee Mike - I torqued mine as well in the woods at the farm - the same one I had an ACL replace and scope job on...it hyperextended backwards a bit - seems a bit creaky, but I was still 15' up in an our old apple tree here today in maine pruning, so it can be that bad...glad you liked the blog and I will be saying hellos for you when I get back in sept. You would really liked Dave - he picked up right where you left off w/ work ethic, and he's very sharp as well - he's a good fit at OSF... sign up for the blog and you'll see the updates. Your MO farm project sounds really cool - I think that could have some good local potential.

I think small scale farming is really gaining momentum....I hope to be right in the thick of it w/ my boys sooner than later.... We still joke about the "wolves" in the turkey yard !! The great escape of the sheep may have had that beat - farm life - you never know what is next - that is what I like about it - diversity.

Be well Mike - you're a good man

David Stern from Stepping Stone Farm in Weaubleau, MO wrote...

Hi Mike,

I was just thinking about you and so I thought that I would write to tell you so. Thank you so much for all you have done to help us and also for your friendship. Later bud.

David

Phillip Morgan from Stepping Stone Farm in Weaubleau, MO wrote...

Great

I am glad to here you are doing better. As i am sure you know this summer has been about as dry as last year but now we have the well under the windmill working so we have been watering the garden its great. We are just finishing tearing down a barn that we are going to set up as an equipment shed in the rail road. We could use the help any time just let us know what your schedule is.

Mark Cockson of the Richmond Heights Garden Club in St Louis, MO wrote...

Dear Mike:

Good to have met you at your aunt's house the other night.
It seems you are doing a very worthwhile social mission connecting young persons from farm to table.

Glad that I could intorduce you to Wizard's.
Keep up the good work and maybe we can connect for one of your farm tours outstate---the Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Festival seems like a cool thing...

regards,
Mark Cockson, aka grdnrmark

Mike's friend Kevin Reinlein from St Peter's and St Louis University High wrote...

MDK,

How the hell are you? What email address are you using now?

Checked out Mofarmtour site...looks awesome.

Mostly same ol same ol here. Busy summer of traveling, just got back from Texas (visited grad school buddies for weekend trip - Brian Schaefer, Brian Carpenter, Wes Porter, Pat Monahan, and Rob Wilson). Saw Aimee and Brian's two girls in San Antonio.

Was in STL for my parents 40th Wedding anniversary a couple weekends ago, which was nice. Saw the new sea lion exhibit at the Zoo.

We were also down in Florida visiting Christi's parents in Bonita Springs.

And last but not least, I was fly fishing in Northern Saskatchewan with my Dad for Northern Pike. What an experience. Near July 4th and I was dressed for a warm winter morning most mornings. We were on Lake Wollaston about 150 miles south of the Northwest Territory. Beautiful country and very isolated.

Heidi started school yesterday and Michael is a wild man...jut like his namesake ;)

At some point I'd like to schedule a trip to Arkansas to go fishing (white river near Mountain Home (largest city). How far are you from there? Would be cool if we could meet up in the great outdoors.

Hope all is well with you, let me know wassup. What your cell number?

Mike's Aunt Sue in Naperville, IL wrote...

Hi Mike,

Good luck with the Missouri Farm Tour. I've enjoyed looking at the website. It's nice to read about your project. It's a big management undertaking in capable hands.

I'm glad to hear that the knee is healing.

While listening to the farm programs on Saturday the 25th, which aired the day after your email I paid special attention to the upcoming Farm Progress Show in Boone, Iowa. It starts tomorrow (the 28th). It was easy to picture you prowling about among the exhibits and pieces of machinery (They will be in operation so farmers can do side by side comparisons). www.farmprogress.com.

And, back to Bollinger County Missouri, in June I was prowling about the headstones and other monuments of family history when my buddy Dorothy (age 88--uses a walker the grace of a ballerina) and I stopped for a sandwich at the "CATTLE SALE BARN" (just W of Co Rd 200 on State Rte 72) on a Wednesday. The cattle were just being unloaded and the men were taking their places in the tiered seating in the Auction Barn. It was an "experience culturelle"....

We proceeded N on Co Rd 200 to take a look at your great great grandmother's home, the granite house with the red roof. I had been curious about a piece of land on the W side of Co Rd 200, just NE of Co Rd 206, above Buck Creek which was on the way to the granite farm. Last year when I was there, I could see a lot of land engineering going on and wondered what was going on. (go to maps.google.com) and enter "Co Rd 200 and Co Rd 206 Bollinger County" and you can see what was done. This year when I was there, the field was full of crops,

possibly soybeans. I thought you'd enjoy seeing the land engineering.

Wishing you well.

As always,
Aunt Sue

Mike's Aunt Beth (founder of Simply Mathematics) in St Louis, MO wrote...

Hi Mike,

A thought for the site: include more links to events of interest to those watching your site. For example, this Tuesday at 6:00 at the Local Harvest Cafe the monthly Feast Book club will meet to discuss the book " Missouri harvest". The authors will be on hand to discuss how they work with Missouri farmers and purveyors to make locally grown food accessible to the public.

Also, on september 30 there will be a fund raiser at Bowood Farms for Missouri conservation. It's expensive but looks pretty interesting. There are lots of other things that you could link to that would make your site more relevant. And , if you really want an opinion, maybe less about drinking beer. It doesn't make you seem as serious about your mission. Hope the the ideas are useful and hope all is well with you. Sounds like your Michigan trip was good. How are the wedding plans going?

All is well here.

Love,
Aunt Beth

Mike's cousin Patrick Robert (2012 St Louis Business Journal "30 Under 30") wrote...

Hey cousin Mike -

Just was having a great day (and have had a few great weeks in a row actually) and realized that my luck/life has been great during the last few months - life has never been better....

I'm telling you this because I had this thought just sitting at my desk staring off at my bulletin board and noticed a certain horse shoe someone gave me for good luck that has been hanging right next to me since my trip to see you.

This interesting "coincidence" was something I thought you would want to know (since I do not think it is a coincidence at all). Thanks for the good luck charm!

Hope your knee is healed and your luck is as good as mine :) - thanks cousin!

P

Mike's sister Erin ("Blue") Kelly in Royal Oak, MI wrote...

Hey! I went on and now have an account in Word Press...Also, went on the website and looked at some "before and after" pics - especially like the one of you, more like "today" and "tomorrow morning"! LOL xoxoxo love you! ~Blue

Mike's Mom in Germantown, TN wrote...

My dearest son! You have been keeping a secret...YOU ARE A PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE DESIGNER!!!! I have visited many websites, as most of us have. The complexity and detail of "MO Farm Tour" is amazingly impressive...WOW!!! Not to mention the fact that you put it together in 6 wks. Great job is an understatement! Want to ask Harry about helping w/weather, he'd be honored. I love your homepage w/pasture and "moo cows" (Nonnie talk). Nonnie would LOVE to see what you doing! She could share her experiences w/you, as you know, as her Grandfather was a farmer on Geyer Rd.

Love you and miss you!

Mom