

## Welcome to Oxon Hill Farm

This farm is like many of those found in the Maryland and Virginia countryside around Washington at the end of the 19th century. Much of the farm work here is done just as it was then—the family cow is milked by hand and the horse team earns its keep by plowing the fields and hauling wagonloads of corn, wheat, oats, and other things.

## Take Time to Explore

While you are here, use all of your senses to explore the farm. As you walk down the long farm lane past the silo, the barn, and the pasture or follow in the footsteps of the farmer as he goes about his everyday chores of caring for the animals and the crops, listen and touch, feel and sniff, and look and smell. You might be surprised at the many things you discover.

## Look Around the Farmyard— It's a Busy Place

You'll see cows, chickens, horses, and pigs wandering about the pastures and pens, and you'll hear the sounds of newborn lambs, chicks, and calves. Tools and farm machinery are either in use or on display for you to see, and the haybarn and stable are open for you to visit.

## Look at the Garden, Too

We raise many kinds of vegetables in the garden, but when you see them growing you might not recognize them. Sometimes vegetables look different after they are cooked.



## Take a Walk Along the Woodlot Trail

This self-guiding trail leads through the forest and orchard to the parking lot. It's quiet in the woods, but if you listen, you might hear some different sounds. If you look carefully, you'll see some plants that grow best in the woods, too.

## Keep an Eye on the Weather

You may see the farmer driving the horse team, mowing hay, cultivating the fields, repairing machinery, or tending the garden. It all depends on the weather and the season of the year. In May he shears the sheep, and in midsummer he harvests the grain in the old-fashioned way with a binder and a steam-powered threshing machine. In late summer, he cuts fodder and stores it in the silo. In autumn, the farmer and his helpers pick the corn by hand to show how it was harvested before the days of machinery. They also cut the sorghum cane and haul it to the mill where it is stripped and mashed. The extracted juice is boiled down until it forms sweet sorghum sirup.

## Talk to the Farmer

The farm staff, under the direction of a manager, consists of interpreters and farm workers who are seen in bib overalls and blue denim shirts or long cotton dresses. Staff members meet visitors formally on guided tours or informally while doing such chores as feeding the chickens, gardening, or shucking corn.

## For Your Safety

- Please DO NOT SMOKE in any building.
- Be cautious around all machinery. Machines are heavy and have dangerous moving parts and sharp edges.
- Be alert for moving equipment such as wagons and tractors.
- Children should always be under the supervision of an adult.

## About Your Visit

Oxon Hill Farm, open daily all year, is located near Indian Head Highway off Oxon Hill Road. Use Exit 3A from the Capital Beltway, I-95. Oxon Hill Farm is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior and is under the immediate direction of the superintendent of National Capital Parks-East. The address is 1900 Anacostia Drive, SE, Washington, DC 20020.



## About the Animals

Please keep your hands away from the mouth of any animal to avoid being bitten.

Do not frighten the animals by making loud noises or quick movements. Remember, you are visiting them at their home, so treat them with kindness.

## Help Us Care for the Farm

Please do not pick the flowers, fruits, or vegetables unless directed to do so by the farm staff.

## We're Joining the Metric World

The National Park Service is introducing metric measurements in its publications to help Americans become acquainted with the metric system and to make interpretation more meaningful for park visitors from other nations.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

☆ GPO 1989-242-342/80023 Reprint 1989



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

