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Something new in May's Lick

This is the fourth year for Peggy Parker and Joel Segal's Amazing Maize Maze in May's Lick but this year they've added a new attraction.



The idea came when Peggy was asked to speak at career day last May at Straub Elementary School where her youngest son, Jack, is a student. In preschool at the time, the career day actually took place after preschool was finished for the school year. A school official called to say since Jack was already out of school, if she didn't want to participate, they understood.

'The first thing I asked was 'how many farmers will be there?' When they said 'none' then I said 'I have to come.'

Peggy arrived at career day with two pies. One was an apple pie she picked up at Kroger on her way to the school. The other was a pie made out of wood, especially made for her by the late Jim May. The wooden pie was covered with miniature plastic pigs, cows, chickens and pieces of grain.

'I held the apple pie in one hand and told the students, 'I didn't prepare it or bake it, but I helped make it. What am I?'

No one knew the answer.

Again she asked the question and again no one knew the answer.

Peggy kind of expected that response.

She explained to them that when a recipe calls for eggs, milk, shortening, a crust, seasonings or spices, where do they think those things come from?

Peggy took the idea and turned it into a giant pie on her farm near the corn maze.

'When children come here with their families, churches or on a school trip, they're like kids in a candy store because they've never been to a farm.'

With that knowledge she takes every opportunity to educate them while they're there.

The new 'pie' has eight slices, or fenced off areas. Peggy tells the students that Lewis and Clark, baby pigs in one area, are where lard comes from for the dough and also sausage and pepperoni for their pizza. Corny, a holstein calf, represents the milk, cream and butter while Sadie, a black Angus calf, represents the beef they love to eat. There are chickens and eggs in one slice and a seasoning slice with a growing garden of parsley, sage, rosemary, onions, thyme and basil.

Another slice holds an apple tree and a small pumpkin patch and the slice next to it has wheat, corn, rye and barley. One slice holds grass because the cows couldn't make milk and the chickens wouldn't lay eggs without grass to eat.

In the compost slice, Peggy has the opportunity to tell the students about the benefits of good soil on the farm.

'Without good soil, and water, crops won't grow.'

For weeks her family have been putting its household compost in a special bin in the area and watching it turn to dirt.

Their 6-acre maze continues to draw crowds and specially arranged groups. Joel has filled the maze with trivia questions to help guide maze-goers on their way.

'For \$1.50 you can try to win a prize by answering the trivia questions correctly,' he said.

In fact, he is offering \$1,000 to the lucky person who can answer 75 correctly. You can also win smaller prizes.

'There are no rules, just come up with the right answers.'

No one has come close.

A former Hollywood writer and director, Joel knows a lot of stuff. But he likes to see people try it anyway.

'It's a challenge, I admit it. But it's also a whole lot of fun.'

There are also plenty of free things to do at the May's Lick maze. The hay bale jump has been a very popular attraction this year.

For more information on the Amazing May's Lick Maize Maze, call 606-763-6706.

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