

Creek Fest

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
THE JOURNAL

ANDERSON — It's never out of the ordinary to see a giant potbelly pig basking in the sun next to his favorite bale of hay.

Don't be surprised if a friendly goat offers a welcoming lick upon arrival and feel free to pet the rescued animals, like ducks and cats, all of which find a loving home at Split Creek Dairy Farm.

Each year, residents and visitors alike, look forward to the Split Creek Spring Festival. It's the perfect venue to bring the family, little ones included, to learn about the dairy farming operation.

Filled with knowledge-packed tours and presentations, Split Creek prides itself on spreading the word about the importance of small farms.

Owners Evin Evans and Patricia Bell have readied their farm once again for the popular festival that kicks off at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 8.

In addition to being able to interact with the animals, part of the fun centers on a crowd favorite.

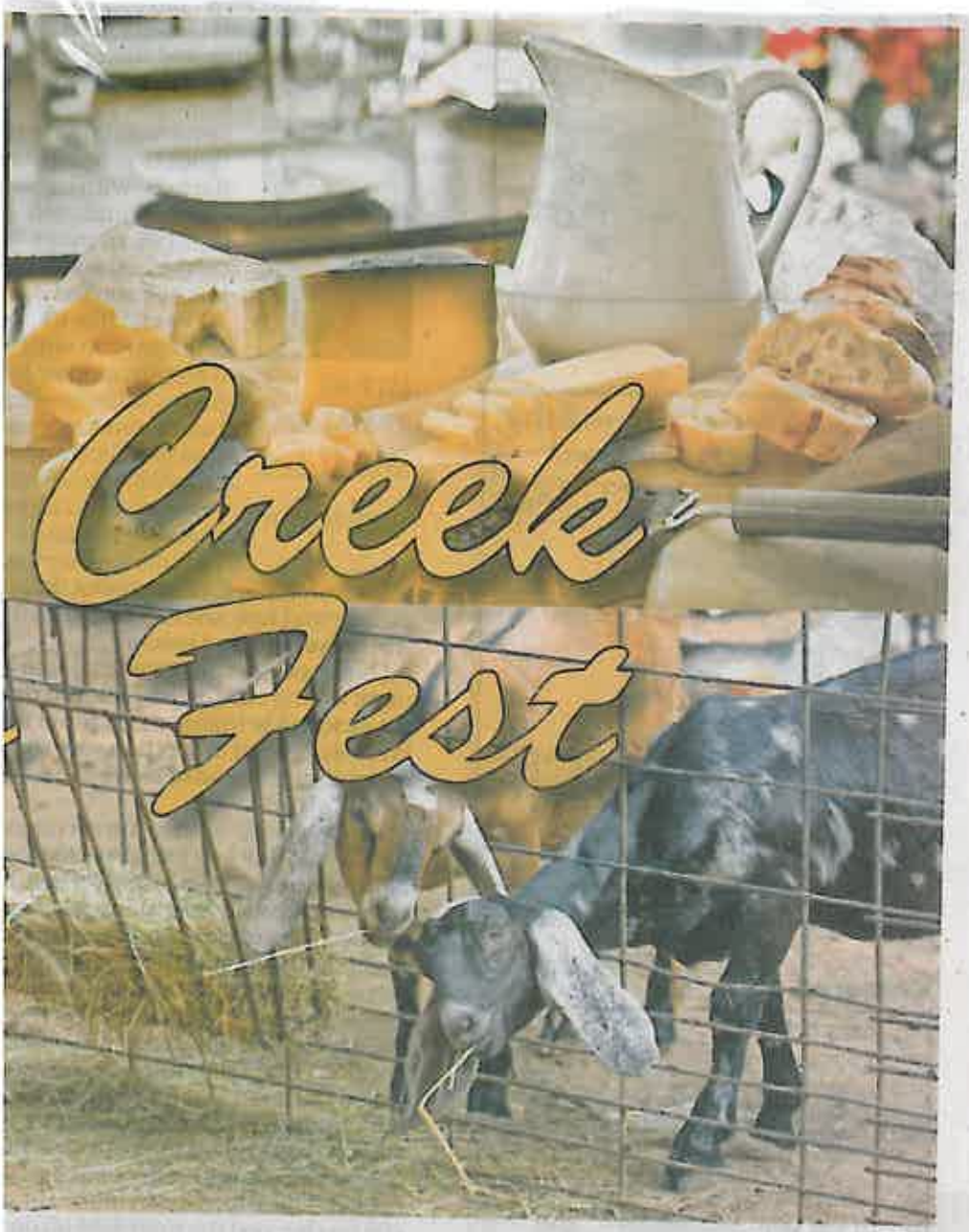
Dubbed, "Kids Meeting Kids," this part of the event brings people up close and personal with the adorably fuzzy baby goats that were recently born at the farm.

"We go every year, and it's always a good time," said Nancy Rutland, Pendleton mother of three. "I'm an animal lover so I could easily stay all day, but that excitement is doubled for the kids. It's really amazing what they do on the farm, and to get an inside look is extra special."

Visitors will also learn about the various breeds of goats, get a chance to tour the milking parlor, see a presentation on the farm's working dogs (special breeds that keep the goats safe), sample the award-winning artisan cheeses and other dairy products and enjoy vendor food from "Friends Food with a Flair."

"The farm started with three goats and a piece of land," Evans said. "The herd peaked at 750 goats,

Creek Fest



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

ome enjoy learning about running a small farm and the successes that can come from . Split Creek Farm specializes in raising goats for dairy production.

ıd fences, pastures and ırns were built over the ears. The goats and the ıeeses are recognized ıtionally and have won ımerous awards."

That includes the 2010 old Medal at the World ıampionship Cheese Con-st in Madison, Wisc.

In addition to enjoying e farm, Bell also runs r art cabin on site where rious original pieces are ailable for purchase and owsing.

"We're excited to see our nmunity come out and see what we are all about," Evans said. "Come make a day out of it."

The event will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is $5 for adult admission and $2 for children 12 and under.

For more information, call (864) 287-3921 or visit www.splitcreek.com.

jsibley@dailyjm.com | (864) 882-2375



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

The Split Creek Spring Festival will kick off this weekend. Visit the farm and meet all the friendly animals that are roaming around.