

I would first like to say how much my family has enjoyed coming to know the beautiful Chagrin Valley because of our choice to spend time at Kelly's Working Well Farm. For the past several years we have been on a weekly basis driving over an hour each way so that our family can experience the unique agricultural immersion that this working farm offers. As someone who has been an educator in public, private, parochial, and charter institutions in several states, I do feel a certain degree of confidence in facilitating the education of my children that have home-schooled. I however am unable on my own to provide this agricultural immersion that I consider vitally important.

You see I am also the granddaughter of dairy farmers. I have fond memories of my own childhood spent on the family farm. It is hard now to see how the family farm has been paved over - as it simply was not deemed of enough value to the community. It is also hard to see how each generation in my own family has become further removed from the land and the skills required to work it. This is something I yearn to change in my own youngest home-schooled child by our involvement with Kelly's Working Well Farm. To that end, I welcome the farm's cooperation with the Bainbridge Zoning Board and fire marshall in reopening Kelly's Working Well Farm as the safe and invaluable agricultural resource it is for the beautiful Chagrin Valley and beyond - including one little seven-year-old boy from Wellington, Ohio who just wants to go back to Kelly's farm.

Marti Stuedle