



Mountain Horse Farm in upstate New York offers a unique blend of relaxing wellness services, including friendly cows who like to cuddle.

## “Cow Cuddling” Comes To New York Farm

Suzanne Vuller and Rudi own Mountain Horse Farm in upstate New York, a 33-acre parcel surrounded by the Bristol Hills, close to lakes, walking trails, estate wineries and breweries. The farm offers a unique blend of comfortable accommodations, relaxing wellness services . . . and friendly cows who like to cuddle.

The Vullers opened their farmhouse as a bed and breakfast in 2010, built a Carriage House in 2012, and have worked hard to create a special guest experience.

A few years ago the Vullers, who grew up in the Netherlands, heard about the concept of “cow cuddling” (koe knuffelen) while visiting their homeland. “In the Netherlands it’s a fairly large movement to connect people with the country life, so we decided to bring the concept to New York,” Suzanne says. The Vullers purchased two cows named Bonnie and Bella because of their gentle personalities and lack of horns. “The animals are here so they can live a healthy and happy life and bring joy to our guests,” says Suzanne.

Both Rudi and Suzanne conduct wellness sessions with the animals. “When our guests spend time with them and enter their space, there’s a magical connection that’s calming and comforting.” One-hour sessions with the farm’s animals cost \$75 for 2 people and \$125 for 4.

The Vullers also have several horses for residents to interact with. Mountain Horse Farm is a certified Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) business, with Suzanne a licensed counselor.

In addition to regular bed and breakfast accommodations, the business offers wellness retreats and horse workshops conducted by certified trainers. “Relaxation comes naturally here,” the Vullers say, “from the beautiful surroundings, our amenities and our animals.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mountain Horse Farm, 7520 W. Hollow Rd., Naples, New York 14512 (ph 583 374-5056; www.mountainhorsefarm.com).

## Full-Size Vietnam Memorial Built In Missouri Field

Instead of traveling to Washington D.C. to visit the Vietnam Memorial, there’s a more viable option for many FARM SHOW readers. Visit the full-size replica of the memorial in Jim Eddleman’s farm field near Perryville, Mo. Besides the famous wall, there are flag memorials for all branches of service, a visitor center, pavilion and a museum.

It’s all part of Missouri’s National Veterans Memorial (MNVVM), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that started with a donation of money and 46 acres from Eddleman based on a vow he made more than 50 years ago.

As a soldier in Vietnam he carried wounded comrades to evacuation helicopters during the TET Offensive in 1968. He promised that if he lived through the war he would do something to honor his comrades. Back home on his family’s 3-generation farm, he worked hard and invested wisely, delivering on the promise by completing the Vietnam Wall in 2018.

“The black granite came from the same quarry as the Washington D.C. memorial. It’s oriented the same way with the sun. The only differences are in D.C. you walk down into it, and we etched our walls instead of engraving them,” says Nancy Guth, executive director of MNVM. If names were misspelled on the D.C. wall, they are spelled the same way on the MNVM wall. Contractors and volunteers worked with Jim Knotts, president and CEO of D.C.’s Vietnam Memorial to get the details right.

Eddleman and his wife, Charlene, can see the memorial from their home. Eddleman

visits the memorial often, during the day and at night, when lights shining on the wall create a special ambiance.

“It’s so peaceful and quiet. I can sit and reflect and remember and hopefully get some healing,” he says.

“When I made the promise, I had no idea what it would be,” he adds. “This turned out way, way more than I expected.”

When he decided replicating the wall would be the best way to honor soldiers, he shared the idea and immediately five people were interested in making a full-size version. He praises the many volunteers and board members who made the memorial possible.

Dedicated in May 2019, it’s become a popular destination for individual and group trips. Schools set up field trips and a retired volunteer teacher helps students connect with names of soldiers from their hometown. Boy and Girl Scouts and others volunteer to clean the 144 panels of the wall, sweep the sidewalks, and mow the grass.

“We are in control, not the government, and veterans are appreciative of that,” Guth says. Visitors can look at the wall anytime and visit the center during regular hours.

NFL Hall of Famer Jackie Smith promotes the wall and MNVM, which is privately funded. There is no entrance fee, but a donation of \$10 is suggested to sustain the memorial and for planned projects. Donations are also accepted for pavers and benches.

Located just a few miles off Interstate 55, the memorial opens up an opportunity for people to visit who would never take the trip to the East Coast, Guth notes.



Farmall-Land USA contains one of the largest collections of red equipment in the U.S., with more than 225 full-size tractors and more than 2,000 toys.

## Big Farmall Museum Closing Next Fall

Jerry Mez says the decision to close the Farmall-Land USA museum was bittersweet but he and his wife, Joyce, have had a tremendous run over the last 14 years. They built one of the largest collections of red equipment and memorabilia in the country, with more than 225 full-size tractors, some 2,000 toys, and countless pedal tractors and other items that will be auctioned off in October, with a date yet to be determined.

Jerry and Joyce have operated the museum, which is located 40 miles east of Omaha/Council Bluffs on I-80, since selling their interest in two Case IH dealerships. His father started as a McCormick-Farmall dealer in 1943 when Jerry was 3.

“We’ve had red blood and red equipment our whole lives but now it’s time to slow down a bit and move on,” says Jerry. It wasn’t an easy decision, but they’ve got other things they’d like to spend more time with like visiting their grandkids and traveling.

The Mez collection is housed in a specially-built 26,500 sq. ft. climate-controlled building. Since they opened it, more than 40,000 visitors have attended, about 5,000 to 6,000 a year. The visitors marvel at the like-new restorations, several which Jerry completed himself. Volunteers help staff the museum, which also has a “tractor widow’s” lounge where Joyce has assembled collectible dolls, a variety of quilts, a bright pink Cub

Cadet lawn mower, and a pink pedal tractor pulling a cart carrying dolls.

One of Jerry’s close friends is Chuck Johnson, a former test engineer for Case IH, whom he met in 1998. Johnson saw plans for the museum evolve and says it’s one of the nicest collections anywhere in the country. It houses many common models and several rare tractors, such as a Kerosene tractor and a 30,000-lb. 4-WD IH 4300, which Jerry purchased from a Montana rancher in 1985. A sign near the yellow behemoth reads “If you’re not one of my grandkids, stay off”. Other favorites include an F-20 that Jerry’s father had sold at his dealership years ago. When Jerry came home from Korea and Army duty in the 1950s, his father told him the F-20 was his. “That started me on a journey that’s continued ever since,” Jerry says.

The museum will remain open and fully stocked until their auction. Jerry says when auction time rolls around he’ll hold about 10 of his favorite tractors and some memorabilia off the block, including the F-20 and probably one of the 1206 diesels, an original “Big Power” Farmall.

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Full-size replica of the Vietnam Memorial wall in Washington, D.C., honors soldiers who served in the war. At night, lights shining on the wall create a beautiful glow.

She adds that besides MNVM, Perryville has the St. Mary of the Barrens National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and the American Tractor Museum.

“It’s not noisy like it is in Washington, D.C.,” Eddleman says. “You can sit here and be in peace.”

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