

Farms to Food Banks Farmer Spotlight



Evans Orchard and Cider Mill Donates Fruits of Labor to Struggling Kentuckians

Kentucky Association of Food Banks
Published 3/20/18



Georgetown, KY – In 1995, Kevan Evans knew tobacco farming was on its way out. Rather than giving up on agriculture altogether, he reached out to the local extension office and researched alternative crops. With this knowledge and funds received from the 1999 Phillip Morris tobacco settlement, the Evans family slowly phased tobacco production out of their farm operations entirely. Today, their 175-acre farm operates as Evans Orchard and Cider Mill with 15 acres of apple and peach orchards and more than 20 acres of vegetable gardens.

What was once their tobacco barn has been transformed into a farm market where they sell products straight from the farm such as fresh pressed apple cider, fresh jams and jellies, and fresh honey from the orchard bees. There is also the Sweet Apple Café and Bakery that contains their certified kitchen where you can buy foods like rib-eye sandwiches, fried apple pies, grilled chicken and more.

While parents shop in the farm market, kids are invited to play in the Bushels of Fun Play Yard. At just \$8 a ticket, children can play on a beautiful, well-kept playground including attractions such as an obstacle course, go-carts, and a petting zoo.

“We noticed that while parents were shopping inside, their kids wanted to run around outside and play anyway, so it was just a natural fit,” Kevan’s daughter, Jenny Evans, said of their farm playground, “We just want to respond to people’s needs.”



If managing a farm market and playground isn’t enough, Evans Orchard and Cider Mill also rents out a barn for weddings and special events. It is here that they hold seasonal festivities throughout the year, including the Sweet Corn Festival, Back to School Bash, and the Apple Festival. There are also opportunities throughout the year to come and pick your own produce or flowers straight from the farm.

In addition to a love for fun that comes with festivals and playgrounds, their hearts are in the right place as much of their Number 2 grade or surplus produce goes to charities to help feed those in need as well as reduce waste. “Delivery is the hardest part of getting rid of our Number 2 grade produce,” confesses Kevan Evans. “The Farms to Food Banks program lets me recoup my labor costs for picking and the cost of boxes. It’s great—it’s really more of an incentive to donate than to make money.”

Since 2012, Evans Orchard and Cider Mill have donated 8,499 pounds of cucumbers, green beans, sweet corn, yellow squash, and zucchini to the Farms to Food Banks program. They have received \$2,641.75 in reimbursements from the Kentucky Association of Food Banks, which are meant to cover their cost of harvesting, packing, and transporting the produce to one of KAFB’s member food banks.



In addition to their involvement in the Farms to Food Banks program, Evans Orchard and Cider Mill have warmly welcomed church groups and organizations such as [Glean KY](#) to their farm and orchard to glean the fields at the end of the season. Whether they’re donating to Farms to Food Banks to help struggling Kentuckians or they’re opening up their orchards to be gleaned, Kevan Evan’s words ring true: “It’s a great thing to know that what we grow doesn’t go to waste.”

You can read more about Evans Orchard and Cider Mill and what their farm has to offer on their website: evansorchard.com