

Sports Activities **ABOUND** for Local Youngsters

There are many recreational and organized sports activities for Dixon area youth to participate in, locally and throughout the region.

The Dixon Youth Recreation Association (DYRA) has provided the opportunity



for youngsters to play softball and baseball during the summer since the 1950's.

Youth soccer leagues were formed several years ago and players from 4-18 years old can participate in both the spring and fall



seasons of the Dixon Soccer Club.

The newest organized sport in Dixon is youth football. The Mid Missouri Athletic Club (MMAC) fields teams for players in 2nd through 6th grade.

There are also recreational girls and boys basketball teams formed for younger players to participate in be-

fore they reach 7th grade and play for the Bulldogs at Dixon Middle School.

These are just some of the activities available in the Dixon area. The rivers, lakes and woodlands in central Missouri provide the opportunity for fishing, hiking, hunting, float trips, and even cave exploring.



Meyer Tree and Berry Farm

By Susan E. Hohman

"People come from all over to pick the blueberries," declared Cindy Meyer, wife of Marv Meyer, owners of Meyer Tree and Berry Farm, located at 13018 Highway D outside of Dixon. Guests are encouraged to pinpoint (literally) their location of origin on the map in the shed at the entrance to the property, when they come to purchase the berries. "We've had people from as far away as Florida and Oregon," continued Mrs. Meyer. She indicated that many of the military people who moved away return at berry-picking time to collect fresh blueberries from Meyer's.

The growing season is earlier than normal this year because of the changing weather patterns. In fact, Cindy indicated that Marv has commented about the growing season starting earlier each year for the past two years, and that he has never witnessed this before in all the years of operation of the farm. The opening date for the 2016 season was June 9th, and

they hope to allow picking of berries until July 4th.

Meyer Tree and Berry Farm has 200 followers on Facebook, plus they mailed about 200 pieces, advertising the projected harvest dates. They have about 400 "regular" customers, plus walk-ins, who heard



through word-of-mouth, the Facebook page, or through Pulaski County Tourism, who does a good job of promoting the business also.

The Berry Farm grows three different kinds of blueberries: Blue Crop, Blue Jay, and Blue Ray. They are offering the berries for the same price as last year, \$2.85 per pound plus tax, if the customer picks the berries, or \$3.85 per pound plus tax, if Meyer picks the berries. They also offer a Kubota ride to the patch. Although most people are content with a few pounds of berries, the Meyers have seen people walk out with as many as 40-50 pounds! "They are good to freeze, and they're quite healthy – full of antioxidants," stated Cindy.

Although they have an abundance of berries, the Meyers advise people to call ahead to give notice and to make certain they have enough fresh berries available. Potential patrons can consult the Facebook page: Meyer Tree & Berry Farm, or by phone at 573-759-7998.

NEW OWNERS: In July of 2016, new owners will assume operations of the farm as the Meyers retire to new adventures. They plan to continue the same tradition of blueberry picking under the new name of Houligan's Berry Farm.

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