

# Horsing around at Bellaire Farms

By Jack McLaughlin  
Special to the Lakes Edition

Although it's located less than five miles from downtown Milton, Bellaire Farms feels like its own world. From the quiet, winding, Ryan Road to the lush hills and verdant farmlands that surround the stables and pens, it's exactly the sort of place you would expect horses to be trained and raised at. And it's exactly the sort of place you'd want to learn how to ride a horse at as well.

It just so happens as well that teaching people of all walks to ride is one of the things Bellaire Farms does best. And although picking up and learning can be intimidating – even the absolute beginner should feel at ease.

"We've had kids as young as three years old take lessons," said owner and expert horse instructor Kris Martalock, "They've been out there trotting by the end."

The stables see riders of all ages regularly too, as an 85-year-old Janesville resident comes to ride three times each week.

The stress-free lessons cater to all skill levels and offer a good amount of one-on-one tutelage from seasoned experts, teaching balance, guiding, and lunge line training (and working in Western and English riding styles). Additionally, students are encouraged to switch horses often once they feel confident enough. This technique helps riders take in the most they possibly can. "Every time you change horses, you learn something," said Martalock.

And for a more immersive experience, the 19-acre Rock County farm offers weekly summer camps for children. Each session, which runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, teaches kids how to ride, start showing and take care of horses. To this end, Bellaire Farms even has a professional veterinarian give informative camp talks. During the course of the week, participants are assigned one horse and stick with them. This helps cultivate the intricacies of looking after one's own animal. At each session's end, to com-



Allie Graph poses with Pops on the grounds of Bellaire Farms. (Photo submitted by Jack McLaughlin)

memorate a successful week, the campers put on their own horse show for parents and family members.

The idea of younger children with horses is nothing new to Martalock, who began riding herself at the age of five. Since then, horses have never left her life. At just 20 years old, she left the University of Wisconsin-Rock County, took out a \$3,500 loan and rented the farm, buying it outright shortly thereafter. She has never looked back.

As a teenager, Martalock would actually board her own horse at Bellaire Farms (while it was under different ownership) and she's worked to keep the location running in this line of work. Currently, the business has 42 stalls and hosts show horses, brood mares, and many customer horses. Martalock stressed that patrons of any level are welcome to house their animals in their stalls as well. "Plenty of people with horses here just ride for pleasure," she said.

From breeding, to training – to full-scale summer camps and detailed lessons – if it has to do with horses, Milton's Bellaire Farms has you covered.



Lucy's Hideaway is located at 5847 Cty. Hwy. N north of Milton. (Photo submitted by Jack McLaughlin)

## Lucy's Hideaway packs in summer fun

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Don't let the name fool you, Lucy's Hideaway is anything but off the map. It's a bustling local business with all varieties of food and entertainment. The casual restaurant and bar combination, located north of Milton on County Road N, has been a favorite locale throughout the Milton area in its nearly five years of operation.

Lucy's, taking its namesake from owner Mike Jacobson's wife, hosts a variety of summer volleyball events on its very own sand courts. Leagues meet on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, so participants have the option of finding a time that works with their specific schedule. The size of each league ranges from 12 to 18 teams, so the competition and fun is cranked up

without seeming repetitive. Those either unable to attend a full league season or simply wanting more action are in luck as well: the restaurant will be holding tournaments throughout the summer.

But it isn't just the volleyball that makes Lucy's Hideaway a hopping destination, as the business dedicatedly hosts live music throughout the year. "We probably get some of the best entertainment in the area on Saturdays," said owner Mike Jacobson. "I only book good bands."

A list of incoming artists, who usually take the stage at Lucy's around 9 p.m., is available on the restaurant's Facebook page. With an absolutely jam-packed schedule of music each and every weekend, it's not hard to find something you'll love. The restaurant's newly refurbished outdoor patio allows

guests to take in either a late-night band or a friendly game of volleyball from a prime spot as well.

And then, of course, there's the food. The restaurant holds any number of enticing specials. Friday is an all-day fish fry and guests receive burgers two-for-one on Tuesday. There is also a full taco bar on Thursdays, Italian served throughout the day and night on Wednesday, plus a wide variety of changing nightly and lunch specials. "We serve good food at very reasonable prices," said Jacobson, and the owner of several other Milton eateries and the recently acquired Bogey's in Janesville would know something about both of these things.

Any way you slice it, there's so much to do at Lucy's Hideaway this summer, and so much to eat while doing it.

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