

Farming Exhibit: The roots of agriculture

Sometimes we focus so much on how food gets from the farms to our plates with the help of modern agriculture practices that we tend to forget how this process worked over 100 years ago! The changes in agriculture over the last century have been tremendous. Perhaps no other industry has made such great strides as the agriculture industry. Changes in equipment, practices, animals, and even the way we process food have all changed.

Much of this history happened right here around us in Weakley County.

Over the past five years Mike Rea has worked in collaboration with Weakley County families who have a farming history to collect both old and modern

photos depicting farm life. Forty families have donated photos and even biographies of their families to this exhibit.

"The families and farms are not just from Martin, but are from all over Weakley County," Rea said.

This exhibit has more than just photos to show visitors. The exhibit also holds antique toy tractors, videos, and a plethora of historical information. Last year's exhibit followed the overall "homegrown" theme of the Soybean Festival and added more displays on items from the home and garden exhibit. Every year this exhibit expands and gets better. It is impressive that items in the exhibit include items from the 1900s and used in both the kitchen and the garden.

Local farmer Johnathan Snider said, "Being a farmer myself for many years, I always like to go to the exhibit and look around. It helps remind me of how things used to be, and keeps me thankful for the way things are now. It is an informative exhibit, and one that every Soybean Festival visitor should stop by to see."

The Soybean Festival has been founded on the roots of agriculture in our community, and it is important for members of Weakley County and beyond to get a better understanding of agriculture through the years. Many families in Weakley County grow and produce their own food. Many people forget just how many people still rely on the food they produce at home in

order to fill a table for their families. This farm-to-fork process is important for people to understand, especially as it so prevalent in our community.

People are encouraged to donate items to this exhibit. Each item in the exhibit has its own place and significance to agriculture. The exhibit is still in search of kitchen utensils, gadgets, and other items one would find in the kitchen from the early 1900s, and is also needing small antique garden and farm equipment. If you are interested in donating contact Roberta Peacock at the C.E Weldon Library in Martin.

The exhibit will be held in the library from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sept. 5-8.

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