

Micro-museum devoted to goats opens in Dallas

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Terry and Laurie Carlson, owners of Fairview Farm, opened up the nation's first goat museum last week. / KOBBI R. BLAIR / Statesman Journal

The Goat Museum

Where: Fairview Farm, 2340 SW Fairview Ave. (Highway 223), Dallas. **Hours:** 10 a.m. To 4 p.m. Friday through Monday. **For information,** go to fairviewfarmdairy.com or call

(503) 623-4744

Fairview Farm in Dallas has opened what is billed to be the nation's first goat museum.

The farm, located on the southern crest of Dallas on Highway 223, announced the opening this past week as a mini attraction adjacent to its creamery store. The idea is to afford an amusing and educational addition to the farm and store.

"There's a lot of curiosity about goats," said Laurie Carlson, who co-owns the operation along with her husband, Terry. "Many people are turning to the milk for its health benefits, and goats appeal to people as small-scale family livestock."

The museum is only about 200 square feet — perhaps one of the smallest in the mid Willamette Valley — but it's filled with goat legends and facts reaching back 10,000 years. It's meant to add to Fairview visitors' experiences as they watch the farm's goats and sample goat's milk, cheese and ice cream made on site.

The couple has operated the dairy for four years, adding a farm store last year. After attending an agritourism workshop at Oregon State University, they decided to build a little museum for farm visitors.

"Pumpkin cannons and zip lines didn't fit our farm," Terry Carlson said with a wink, referring to some of the more showy ideas that emerged from that workshop.

The Carlsons discovered there was only one other goat museum in the world, in the Australian outback. The idea for creating a museum was a natural; Laurie has a Ph.D. in history and enjoys research.

"I want to help people understand why Anglo-American culture turned to cattle, rather than goats, which are more common in Asia and Africa," she said. "It's about fat. Tallow, actually."

A quick visit to The Goat Museum delivers the rest of the story.

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