

## **Wilcox Family Farms Tour Costs & Scheduling Information**

### **Tour Costs:**

Guided Tours                      \$5.00 each (Children under age 4 are free)

Note: If your group has time, paid tours include the self-guided Salmon Nature Trail at no additional fee.

### **Self-Guided Salmon Nature Trail:**

This is a self-guided nature walk trail where visitors can view the return of the salmon during spawning season. It is included at no additional charge with a guided tour.

### **Parking:**

Parking is available for cars and buses free of charge with scheduled tour.

### **Food:**

Educators may store student lunches inside the Fire House. Please put lunches in a box, clearly marked with group identification, and the tour guide will direct you to the area to store them prior to the tour. Depending on the weather, we have indoor and outdoor areas to eat lunch (either inside the Fire House or picnic benches near the gazebo). The Farm Store is located at the egg plant and sells some food items and souvenirs. We suggest large groups use sack lunches due to time constraints.

### **Scheduling:**

To assure each group receives sufficient time and attention to have a fun, educational experience the tours are offered by scheduled appointment only.

We suggest booking your tour at least 30 days in advance. Scheduling may be completed by email or phone. No deposit necessary, however if your group needs to cancel their tour please give Wilcox Family Farms at least two weeks notice so other groups have an opportunity to schedule in your place.

### **Contacts:**

Wilcox Family Farms Tours  
40400 Harts Lake Valley Road  
Roy, WA 98580

Tours: Cherie Kuranko  
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Tour Phone: 360-441-4726  
Website: [www.wilcoxfarms.com](http://www.wilcoxfarms.com)

## **Wilcox Family Farms Tour Sites**

- ❖ **Fire House:** Was previously an operating fire house. It now houses our Pioneer & Family History Museum. Learn about the Wilcox family's history and how the farm began.
- ❖ **School House:** The one-room school house, built in 1900, was attended by the children of Judson and Betty Wilcox. Children sit in the single desk wooden seats pioneer children once sat in. Hold a spelling bee or test if you like. Learn what school was like for the children, chores they performed at school, subjects taught and expectations of the teachers who taught here.
- ❖ **Chicken Coop:** The 1920's era chicken coop built by Judson Wilcox housed their first chickens & equipment used in the egg business during the 1920's and 1930's. Gather eggs the old-fashioned way & pump water at the outdoor display.
- ❖ **Pioneer Log Cabin:** The log cabin was moved to the Wilcox Farm to preserve it for future generations. See what a typical pioneer home looked like for the people who settled in this wilderness area when Judson brought his wife Betty here in 1909. Examine the wringer pioneers used while washing clothes.
- ❖ **Antique Farm Equipment Museum:** This building holds the Wilcox farmer's treasures—farmers never throw anything out! See various farm equipment, delivery trucks and family owned vehicles from years past. Learn how antique farm equipment worked compared to the modern equipment used today. See Jim Wilcox's new dairy memorabilia and equipment in the Dairy Loft.
- ❖ **Organic Free Range Poultry Barn:** See where our hens lay eggs & learn how we care for them. Watch the chickens in their winter/summer gardens.
- ❖ **Egg Plant:** View eggs being processed from the time they enter the egg plant, get washed, inspected, sorted & packaged in cartons. About 65,000 dozen eggs per day are processed here 6 days a week—that's 4,680,000 EGGS per week! Souvenirs and some food items can be purchased at the farm store.
- ❖ **Petting Farm:** Pigs, horses, goats, sheep and a burro—feed nibbles of hay to the animals and let the rowdy kids jump in the hay!
- ❖ **Wilcox Houses & Pool Area:** See the farmhouse where Judson & Betty Wilcox raised their family and Grandma Wilcox's home (she still lives there and is 94-years-old). The pool & gazebo area are used to host many events for family and staff.

Groups who have time remaining after their scheduled tour may stroll along the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile one-way nature trail to see salmon spawning in Horn Creek & native vegetation.

## **Brief History of Wilcox Family Farms**

Wilcox Family Farms was founded by Judson and Betty Wilcox in 1909. Judson, Betty and their two babies moved from Seattle into the green farmhouse that is still standing on the property. Two more children were born while at the farm. Their children include; Marian, Helen, Grace and Truman.

In 1920, Judson and Betty made the decision to go into the egg business. With a quick poultry training course and 1,000 baby chicks (mostly roosters!) the family business began, grew and prospered under future generations of Wilcox children. Now, 100 years later, Wilcox family members continue to run the family farm.

In 1932, the couple's only son, Truman Wilcox, became a partner in the business. Truman married Mildred Grosser in 1935. Their sons, Jim and Barrie Wilcox, entered the business in the early 1960's. Jim worked in the dairy while Barrie worked with the poultry.

The fourth Wilcox generation to work on the farm; JT, Chris, Brent and Andy Wilcox, sons of Jim and Barrie, joined the family business during the 1980's and 90's and continue today, alongside their fathers.

Mildred Wilcox, Truman's wife, is the eldest Wilcox living on the farm—she is 94-years-old. There are currently three generations of Wilcox family members working full-time on the farm. It is one of the few remaining family owned commercial farms remaining in Pierce County.

The 1,500 acre farm is located in the beautiful Nisqually Valley. We hope you will consider Wilcox Family Farms for your next field trip. If you have any questions about the tours or would like to schedule your group for a tour please feel free to contact us.

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