

Dr. Ayers

Dairy Barn Dream

Donations Accepted At The Dairy Store

THE LANDS AT



300,000
290,000
280,000
270,000
260,000
250,000
240,000
230,000
220,000
210,000
200,000
190,000
180,000
170,000
160,000
150,000
140,000
130,000
120,000
110,000
100,000
90,000
80,000

THANK YOU!

MARK MORAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At least 3,000 people contributed to the fundraising effort to construct a new dairy barn at The Lands at Hillside Farms in Shavertown.

FARMS: Completion of barn expected around Thanksgiving

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Suzanne Kapral, director of communications, said they “lived and breathed” the campaign to raise money for the barn, one of Ayers’ dreams.

An animal lover who ran the Plains Animal Hospital and a nearby emergency clinic, Ayers saved the farm from private development by creating The Lands at Hillside Farms in 2005. He led the effort to buy the farm from the Conyngham family for \$4.2 million and paid the monthly mortgage.

Everyone who donated will get a handwritten “thank you” note, Kapral said.

“We want to assure them we are committed to this,” Kapral said. “This is our life and we are not going to let his dream die.”

The property includes a dairy farm, a museum and a store that sells products made from Hillside Farms cows.

The new barn will be built on the same side of Hillside Road as the farm’s dairy store and grazing pastures, so the cows don’t have to cross the road multiple times a day like they do now.

The new barn also would continue Ayers’ vision of being compassionate to the animals. Currently, the cows each are assigned to a stall and need to be chained in an “archaic” barn, Mozloom said. The new barn will have no chains or stalls.

Preliminary plans call for the barn to be 190 feet long and 60 feet wide, which will enable the farm to increase its herd from 90 cows to 110.

A unique feature to the new barn will be an observation deck, which will allow the public back inside the barn. The public used to be able to

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SUZANNE KAPRAL

The Lands at Hillside Farms
director of communications

enter the cow barns and interact with the animals, but Hillside Farms ended that feature in late 2015 following a lawsuit threat after a child suffered a bloody nose.

Construction is slated to begin in the start of May with a completion date around Thanksgiving.

Mozloom said the past few months have shown the overwhelming love people had for Ayers.

“It clearly shows the impact Doug Ayers had on the community,” Mozloom said.

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