

# FARMERS MARKET RURAL HERITAGE CENTER HANDS-ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION TOURS

The Rural Education Center at the Farmers Market is a hands-on agricultural education center. The center hosts more than 1,000 children a year. Tours of the center are held March thru June, and September thru November. Appointments for tours are sometimes scheduled a year in advance and groups have come as far as the Eastern Shore to experience this unique attraction.

The Rural Heritage Center, which opened in 2002, was developed to educate young children about early farm life. During the tours, children learn about fruits and vegetables from a miniature farm stand. They see and learn about old farm tools such as cross cut saws, hand drills and more. They also identify crops farmers grow and how these same crops are changed into some of the food we can eat, such as corn into cornmeal and wheat into flour.

Butter is made in an old “daisy” butter churn, water is pumped from a hand pump and clothes are washed using a wash board and hung on the line to dry. Children learn to milk a (fiberglass) cow, which produces real milk, and pick eggs from a hen’s nest. There are pigs to feed, soybeans to plant and plenty to see at the Virginia Beach Farmers Market Rural Heritage Center.

*\*Volunteers are always welcome, visit our Management office to sign up today\**



*\*pictures from Fun on the Farm event held on the grounds of the Market 2009\**