

# Wassermann W ranch, LLC



Wassermann W ranch, LLC is owned and operated by Heidi & Scott Wassermann. The Wassermann's acquired their first donkey in 2010 changing day-to-day life in many unexpected, wonderful ways. Soon the donkey gave birth to a jenny foal, since nothings cuter than a baby donkey naturally people were invited to see the baby. The first alpacas arrived in 2012. Visitors became enamored with the animals and someone said "You ought to charge admission." That's how Wassermann W ranch was born. In 2013, the W ranch began using alpaca fiber to sell felted goats milk soap. Next, alpaca apparel was purchased which friends and co-workers snapped up to give as gifts. In 2014, the W ranch hosted its first birthday party for a child and there were as many adults, as there were kids, who enjoyed the party. Birthday parties include donkey rides, feeding alpacas, a picnic and activities like bobbing for apples, playing with squirt guns or

hitting a piñata. During 2014, the first day camp for kids was offered. The donkeys and alpacas are central to day camp activities. After learning about the animals, children receive donkey rides and kids lead donkeys through obstacle courses. Crafting, nature walks, and free play also kept the kids entertained. Day camps will be offered during summers and long school breaks. The W ranch has hosted 8 school field trips and provided kids with an opportunity to learn about donkeys and alpacas, and enjoy time outdoors. A kindergartener visiting the W ranch was told one of the donkeys, a mammoth named Chewie, often shares secrets. The child instantly put his ear next to the donkey's mouth and, taking the cue, Chewie proceeded to blow in the child's ear. The child was asked what the donkey said and the child's response: "He said he LOVED me!" The W ranch began advertising tours to the general public in 2015. The Wassermann W ranch store called, "The Mercantile," offers alpaca fiber-apparel, teddy bears, homemade soap, jewelry and books. In order to continue to grow, it became clear it was time to delineate Wassermann W ranch, LLC space from their residential area. Heidi and Scott met with Business Advisor Patricia Long to discuss financing the expansion of Wassermann W ranch to purchase a portable cabin to be dedicated to Wassermann W ranch activities. The new building will serve as the Mercantile. As a result of the collaboration, Wassermann W ranch was approved for a revolving line of credit from Fort Davis State Bank making them able to expand the W ranch's retail operation, retaining one full time job and creating two part time jobs.

*"We appreciate our advisor's patience and encouragement!"*

~Heidi & Scott Wassermann

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