

Country Roads Driving Tour

Agriculture–Conservation–History



**Stop by the Visitors' Center
For Kentucky State Map**

This tour was developed as a joint venture between the
**Eagle Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. & the
Carrollton/Carroll County Visitors' Center**
Photograph by Joellen Tumbrink

Special thanks to Theoda Franklin of the Eagle RC&D
for his endless knowledge and devotion to the proper practices of conservation.

Get ready for a drive in the country that should last approximately 2 hours. We suggest that you drive slower than the speed limit – to ensure that you “take-in” all that the back-roads of Kentucky have to offer.

This tour will expose you to beautiful scenery, agriculture in various stages, important conservation efforts and interesting historical facts and places. This is mostly a “driving” tour. However, certain points of interest encourage tourists to stop by – they will be denoted by an asterisk (*).

Start your motors – and “trip your odometers to Zero (0).

We have the points of interest marked on the tour by mileage readings.

BEGIN - We begin at the front entrance of *General Butler State Resort Park. (Highway 227). Additional information is available on Park amenities & history.

Our local ***Riverview Farmers Market** sets-up every Saturday from 9am-Noon between Memorial Day & into October at the front entrance of General Butler State Resort Park. Riverview Farmers Market is proud that all produce is grown on their farms. No item is allowed to be “shipped” in from other parts of the United States. They can also be found on Wednesdays in front of the County Courthouse downtown. This Farmers Market was the first chosen by the State of Kentucky to enter a partnership agreement with Kentucky State Parks to provide local produce.

**[0.0] From the Front Entrance – TURN LEFT
onto Highway 227 towards Carrollton.**

[0.6] As you travel along the over-pass across the small dam separating the lakes on either side of Highway 227 – to your right you will notice a section of ***Camp Kysoc**. This was the first Easter Seals camp built in the United States. Other programs are offered besides the camps geared specifically for children with physical disabilities.

[1.9] TURN RIGHT at the intersection of Highway 227 and US Highway 42.

YOU ARE TRAVELING EAST PARALLEL TO THE OHIO RIVER ON YOUR LEFT.

[2.1] Highland House Bed & Breakfast was originally built by Ralph M. Barker in 1923. As was typical in the 1920s, the house is a combination of architectural styles. The Mediterranean Revival influence of the stucco façade and glazed clay tile roof are combined with the Federal entryway with Palladian window and fanlight. Tudor-style diamond shaped windows and the subtle use of half-hidden fluted columns in the façade are suggest Greek revival. Arts & Crafts style are present in the groups of 3 and 4 exterior windows and the exposed beams, oak picture frame floors and cast concrete mantel in the living room. Call for a reservation.

[2.1] The Barker Barns were originally used as prize swine and Holstein cattle barns. The barns were purchased by the company now known as Arkema, Inc. from Barker heirs. The interior of the barns are truly beautiful with brick floors and exposed beams. Arkema offers the Barker Barns for certain community activities.

Holstein cattle were predominately developed in what is now the Netherlands. The original stock was the black animals and white animals of the Batavians and Friesians, migrant European tribes who settled in the Rhine Delta region about 2,000 years ago. For many years, Holsteins were bred to make best use of grass. The intermingling of these animals evolved into an efficient, high-producing black-and-white dairy cow. A healthy Holstein calf weighs 90 pounds or more at birth. A mature Holstein cow weighs about 1500 pounds and stand 58 inches tall at the shoulder. The normal productive life of a Holstein is six years.

[2.6] ***The Masterson House** on your LEFT is suggested to have been built in the late 1790s and was home to Richard and Sarah Masterson. It is believed to be the first two-story brick structure between Cincinnati and Louisville, and holds claim to be the oldest two-story brick structure still standing between Cairo, Illinois and Pittsburgh. Slave labor was used to construct the house out of native bricks burned on the site. The Masterson's were farmers & politicians.

Currently owned by the Port William Historical Society, The Masterson House is available for tours on Saturday afternoons or by appointment through the Visitors' Center. The grounds are home to the bi-annual Heritage Saturdays (June/September). Note the **Heritage Kitchen Garden** planted with heirloom products. Harvested seeds are sold at Heritage Saturdays!

See Masterson House Brochure in Visitors Center

[3.0] ***The Family Fun Farm** is scheduled to open in July of 2005. The Family Fun Farm is located on Martin Road, Route 2350) – you would turn RIGHT at this point and it is on the LEFT in 1 mile. This Corn-Maze will also feature fresh produce and preserves among other activities scheduled for the future. Check with the Visitors' Center for more information.

[3.1] Local Folklore places an **Indian Burial Mound** in the hills over to your right. Native Americans who lived in the Ohio River Valley were Hopewell, Shawnee, Miami, Omaha and Erie among others traveling through. This is private property.

[3.5] **Rebel Landing** was built by Benjamin Craig, Sr. several yards from his original house. The original home was destroyed, yet bricks from this early structure, built the existing gatehouse. Note that the front of the house faced the Ohio River. Ben Craig was one of the founding fathers of our area. They were farmers as well as import futurists. Crops were sent down the Ohio River to the south and north to Cincinnati. Rebel Landing was also rumored to be a part of the Underground Railroad. It is a private residence.

[4.1] **Growers Tobacco Warehouse** has been recently purchased by the Philip Morris Tobacco Company. As tobacco buy-outs have forced most farmers away from the crop, it is important to realize that it once placed Carroll County as the third largest Burley Market in the world.

[4.8] **TURN RIGHT onto Four Mile Road (Note there is not a road sign)**

[4.9] **Wild Turkey** are numerous in this area. You will especially notice them in morning hours or cooler temperatures throughout the day – strutting though the fields. They are proud and striking to look at – but do not get terribly close!

[5.8] **Wooden Hay Rack.** On your left: this type of hay rack supports the hay above the ground and provides a hollow center in the stack for air circulation. The top of the pile sheds water like a thatched roof while the core dries and cures without being subject to harsh light and wind. “Windrows” of grass left by the scythe are gathered into piles with a long handled wooden rake. These drying frames are placed in the field with the aim of being convenient to the gathered hay. The rack is an A-frame structure roughly built with cross bracing for stability. The racks are loaded a layer at a time. Care is taken to evenly surround the frame on all sides while leaving the center hollow. You will notice several of these racks along the driving tour.

[5.9] **Four Mile Creek Outdoor Environmental Classroom.** Owned by Dow Corning, developed and dedicated in 1998 by the Eagle Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. This was a community effort with our local school system involved as well. Twenty-seven educational features or learning projects lend themselves to workshops to assist in teaching environmental educational skills. Projects such as Project Learning Tree, Project Wet & Project Wild are explored and then taken back to classrooms. Note the Katipo Trees. The Classroom includes a Bird Blind, Bird Sanctuary, Butterfly Garden, Outdoor Stage, Shelter House, and Hiking Trails among others.

[5.95] **Four Mile Creek**

[7.5] **TURN LEFT onto Highway 36.** On both sides of the road you will notice beef cattle, Black Angus and Hereford. The farm on your left with the small silo is actually a beef cattle farm. Normally, silos are located on Dairy Farms.

Short “Jump” Trip. You are going to turn right onto Boone Road. The tour will take you 1.2 miles – you will then turn around in the driveway of the Waste Storage Barn – then turn around and return along the 1.2 miles on Boone Road - back to Highway 36. At this point you will turn right and continue along to the east as you were before the “Jump” Trip.

[8.2] **TURN RIGHT onto Boone Road**

[8.4] **Lindsey Dairy Farm.** Holstein Only. Note Silos.

[8.5] **No-till corn** is planted. Seeds are tossed as opposed to conventional crops that are planted in sod. This practice saves on labor and maintains erosion.

[9.0] **Beef cattle** again on both sides of the road. Charolais on the left and Hereford on the right.

[9.4] **Waste Storage Shed.** This process recycles cattle waste back into fields. Note the second building where the waste is transported back to the fields for fertilizer.

Turn right into Mr. Raisor's driveway [9.4], back out returning the way you came on Boone Road.

At the intersection of Highway 36 [10.6], turn right, and you are back on the original route!

[11.0] **TURN LEFT onto Highway 1112 (Bucks Run Road)**

[11.4] **Belgium Horses** are typically raised at this farm. They are trained to “pull weights”. Thus, the reason for such a large horse barn.

[12.5] **Hay** grown in pastures on both sides of the road is typical. Hay is cut and stored for feed during the winter months. Cattle graze the pastures during summer months.

[13.3] ***Ghent Forestry Lumber Mill.** This local lumber mill on the left specializes in exotic woods. Stop by and the owner will be glad to tour you through the process.

Land on the left-hand side of the road for miles was once home to the Amish and Mennonites Sects.

[14.9] **Gabion Baskets** are used to retain the soil from erosion. They use #2 crushed stone, metal fencing material. You will commonly note these around river/creek banks or small hillsides needing support.

[15.1] **TURN RIGHT onto Highway 47**

[15.2] **Wetland Cell.** This wetland cell was developed for the Thompson Dairy Farm. The Dairy Farm has closed and the Wetland Cell is no longer utilized, thus the state of disarray. However, we thought that it was a noteworthy project to mention. This project demonstrates water quality sound and safe disposal recycling method of storing and managing animal waste through the environment by dairy livestock owners. The waste storage facility is used with components of a diversion ditch and wetland cell. The animal waste storage facility holds and retains the solids for a three-month period and at the time the solids will be recycled onto cropland as fertilizer. The liquids from the animal waste is cycled through the wetland cell where high nitrogen uptake plants such as cattails and fratisities uses up the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium before the water is filtered back across a sod filter strip of reed canary grass, fescue, switch grass and bulrush before entering the creek.

To the Right is McCool’s Creek. The steep terrain is considered to be Class 4-6 – better for cattle than crops.

[17.1] **VEER RIGHT onto Ghent-Eagle Road.**

[17.2] **The large Red and White Oak Trees** seen along the road in this stretch of land was at one time prevalent. The trees were “logged”. People tended not to “log” along the creek beds – lucky for us – these still exist as testament to a magnificent landscape gone by.

[18.0] **Beautiful Sycamore Trees** are the center of attention at this point. Sycamore Trees have what are called “wet-feet” they love to grow along stream-beds and in traditionally wet areas.

[18.2] **Modern High Tensile Cattle Fencing** is on the left. This is replacing the once used “barbed wire” fence.

[18.3] **Traditionally used “Barbed-wire” fencing** is on the right.

[19.0] **Angus Cattle Farm.**

[19.3] **TURN LEFT onto Dividing Ridge Road.**

[19.4] **TURN RIGHT and you are back onto Ghent-Eagle Road. We call this a “dog-leg turn”.**

[19.6] **Highway Marker on the left honors the Historic Grass Hills Farm.** Private.

[20.0] **Liberty Hills Angus Cattle Farm.** Master Cattleman Program participant from the University of Kentucky. The Master Cattleman Program is a highly esteemed program with high standards and guidelines that must be met before selection.

[20.1] ***Mulberry Meadows Angus Cattle Production Farm.** Master Cattleman Program participant from the University of Kentucky. This farm has the potential to handle up to 1,000 head. The farm will set up a tour for guests featuring: cattle handling, hay in storage, automatic watering system, rotation grazing, indoor “calving-ring”, genetics and forage. Phase I Tobacco Money has been used for this cattle venture. Mulberry Meadows in conjunction with the Three Rivers Farm offers Cattle Management Services. Info at Visitors’ Center.

Angus is typically black polled (no-horns) cattle. George Grant transported the first Black Angus to the United States from Scotland in 1873 (Victoria, Kansas). Twelve hundred cattle alone were imported, mostly to the Midwest, in a period of explosive growth between 1878 and 1883.

Hugh Watson of Angus County, Scotland is considered the founder of the breed as he developed the first most systematic and successful breeding process. Mr. Watson’s favorite bull was Old Jock, who was awarded the number “1” in the Herd Book at the time it was founded. The bull was bred in 1842 and was used very heavily in the herd from 1843 until 1852; he was awarded the sweepstakes award at the Highland Show at Perth in 1852 at age 11. His famous cow, Old Granny was calved in 1824 and was killed by lightning when past 35 years of age. She is reported to have produced 29 calves of which 11 were registered in the Herd Book. A large percentage of Aberdeen-Angus cattle can be traced either to Old Granny or Old Jock.

[21.3] **Typical Tobacco Barn** of the area. The high ceilings and vented sides allowed for storage and airing of the pounds of tobacco.

[22.5] **TURN LEFT onto, yes once again, Highway 36!**

You are driving parallel to what was originally the **L&N Railroad line. (Louisville-Nashville).** The line is now owned by CSX. There was also a small C&W Line (Carrollton-Worthville)

[24.4] **Indian Creek**

[25.4] **Roberts Shrimp Farm** is on your left. Other ventures tried throughout Carroll County have been Catfish Farms. Contact Eagle RC&D.

[25.6] **Crossing Lick Creek**

Along this stretch of road you will note the conventional tilled crops of corn, soybean and tobacco.

Commonly seen wild animals of the community are coyote, grey and red fox, squirrel and rabbit. The Black Bear has also been spotted again recently in the nearby area.

[25.9] **Town of Sanders.**

The 1997 Flood brought the Eagle Creek into the town of Sanders. At this point, the waters were 8-9 feet deep. Most of the town was destroyed.

[26.1] **TURN RIGHT – this remains Highway 36.
(Had you turned left – the road would have become Hwy 47).**

[26.1] **Note Historic Highway Marker.** Check with the Visitors' Center or on the website for a complete listing of Carroll County's Historic Highway Markers.

[26.6] Spring in Carroll County brings fresh blossoms of Wild Redbud and the various American Dogwoods. (early to mid-April). Fall foliage can be expected in late September.

[27.3] **The Foot Bridge** to the right is one of the Eagle RC&D's projects trying to be funded. The galvanized structure is falling down & efforts are being made to save it.

[27.4] Look to your left and you can just see the remains of an old cabin. Only the stone hearth remains standing.

[28.0] To the right you will see a "Fighting Cock Farm". It is illegal to fight the animals; however it is legal to raise them.

When asked about **endangered species in our area**, the first place to begin is with the creek-beds. Flooding causes rock to fill the creeks. This sediment destroys the environment conducive for the Pearly Mussel to live. By maintaining conservation ethics in the creeks, the Pearly Mussel has the opportunity to continue to thrive in our area, several miles down the watershed in the Ohio River. Other environmental concerns have caused the Bald Eagle to be an endangered species in our area.

[30.0] **TURN RIGHT onto Highway 227 North.**

[31.2] ***Liberty Farm Miniature Horses.** Turning left onto Highway 3215 you will see Mr. James Luster Payne's Historic Home and then his wonderful miniature horses. Stop by and check with Mr. Payne about a tour or even a horse! His 800 acre farm is incredible.

Side-note: Hereford cattle typically do not have horns.

Another side-note: Visitors have asked if you can tell the difference between female and male cattle by the horns. You cannot tell the difference in the gender by the horn appearance. The majority of male cattle – bulls do tend to have horns. However, many farmers will have them removed or cut off to protect the cattle from themselves when fighting. Female cattle may or may not have horns.

Still another side-note: Most of our sloping land is used to grow crops. Crops are rotated to keep soil-loss within controllable levels. Typically the rotation will be corn, soybean, tobacco with hay.

[34.2] **Town of Wheatley**

[34.3] ***Eagle Valley Camping Resort** to the right.

[34.5] ***Fairway Golf Course** to the right.

[37.9] ***Scenic Overlook.** The valley of Highway 355.

You are now driving parallel to Bucks Run Creek.

[40.0] **Natural Wetland.** It is important to maintain natural wetlands due primarily to the animals that make homes in these wetlands. This one on the right for example is home to the occasional beaver. The wetland empties into Eagle Creek, which empties into the Kentucky River, which empties into the Ohio River.

[41.2] **The Kentucky River** runs parallel at this point. The waters will travel through Lock & Dam Number One and four miles later will find itself at the Ohio River in Carrollton.

[45.6] ***Interstate Produce and Greenhouse.**

[46.8] **Carroll County Fairgrounds** are located to the right at the end of this road. Check with the Visitors' Center or the website for dates of the June County Fair or other specialty events throughout the year.

[48.0] **General Butler State Resort Park on your left.**

Driving Tour Area Map

Still under development