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## TOUR: INN AT EAST HILL FARM

24 Mar 2016 3:42 PM | [Kelly Bryer \(Administrator\)](#)



by GSA Tim Adams, Southern NH University Class of 2014

Well, okay, so there weren't any lions, or even tigers and bears but there were many horses, cows, lambs, goats, rabbits, chickens and guinea hens to go around and that was just at the end of the tour.

The tour itself started in a large dining room with a couple videos, one telling the history of the inn and one 'commercial'. If you want to check out their videos you can find them, with a little hunting, on their web site at <http://east-hill-farm.com>. You will enjoy them.

After the introduction we broke into groups to tour several of the building around the main Inn building.

The Inn itself consists of several 'out' building as well as the main building. Each building had multiple rooms and the Inn's pricing structure shows three different ranges from the Basic to the Deluxe. While you might not notice the difference in the rooms themselves to tell you why one is Deluxe and the other is a Basic room, if you looked at the overall size, you could clearly see the difference.



While most people on vacation don't spend a lot of time in their rooms, it is nice to have a place at the end of the day to unwind, and these rooms had the space for you, and the entire family, to do just that.

One thing of note, when walking from building to building, the view of Mount Monadnock was right there! You couldn't miss it unless you kept your eyes closed. I was surprised that the mountain didn't appear to have ice and snow still at the summit but it has been a warm winter and the Inn is located to the south and west of the mountain so that might be the reason for not seeing any. I do know there were many cars in one trail head parking lot so people were out and climbing the mountain.

We finished the first half of the tour with a wonderful meal. We had been told that the Inn tries to get all of their food locally which is always a nice selling point, especially here in New England where there are still lots of farms growing a wide variety of different crops.

After lunch we headed to the barn where several of us got to help bottle feed a couple of baby sheep and/or goats all in the same enclosure and each 'fighting' for their turn at the bottle. I noticed a short time after they were fed they were all curled up in a corner sleeping, something I can relate to.



We continued through the barn to several different pens with a wide variety of different breeds of sheep, cows, horses and goats and did, as we returned to the main barn, receive a short speech on different breeds of cattle. Did you know some breeds were developed for milk production and others for meat? Well, those of us on the tour do now!

We were then offered a chance to make butter and a large percentage of us did just that. We were handed a jar with heavy cream in it and we started shaking. And we shook, and shook and shook some more and after 15 minutes or so, there was the butter. A lot of work for such a small return but, having been given a loaf of bread after lunch, I expect many of us on the tour had a wonderful fresh toast and homemade butter the following morning with breakfast.



*Shake, Shake, Shake – Shake your Butter!*

The Inn offers a bit of everything for family fun. From swimming in one of their pools, hiking their trails, climbing the mountain, or going for a horseback ride or boating on the pond, there is something for everybody and, with so much to do, you might not see others in your family except at meal times.

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