



## NEW AGRITOURISM BUSINESS SPROUTS THIS FALL IN CASS COUNTY

### *Shuck's Family Fun Farm Offers Corn Maze and Pumpkins Sept. 12*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PLEASANT HILL, MO. (Aug 19, 2009)** – Taking root right now is an a-maizing family agritourism venue just 28 miles east of Kansas City in Cass County, Missouri. A field of cornstalks and hay are being converted into **Shuck's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch**, and will officially open in four weeks, Saturday, September 12. Located on the corner of 291 Hwy and P Hwy in Pleasant Hill, the Shuck's Family Fun Farm will offer a variety of outdoor activities on its 30 acres each weekend this fall. Families can enjoy one low price for two corn mazes, a pumpkin field, and access to an assortment of activities in a fun zone with Hay Mountain, Pumpkin Chunkin, Corn Crib, Steer Ropin', Hay Tunnel, Hay Rides and zip lines.

Shuck's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch is the creation of local residents Kevin and Angie Scharig, of Lees Summit, Missouri. The Scharig's, who run a consumer alarm business in Lees Summit, spent two years looking into options for a new enterprise, and one that could involve their six children. They contracted with The MAiZE, the world's largest cornfield maze company, to create an agritourism venue for the fall season.

"A corn maze is such a family-friendly destination. You can spend as much time as you like at the facility, go at your own pace, and enjoy the country. People will be able to challenge themselves this fall to navigating all three trails in the main maze, or just watch the kids have fun in the Mini Maze or on Hay Mountain," said Kevin Scharig.



The main maze occupies 12 acres of the property. Living cornstalks, which at a mature height reach 10 to 12 feet, create walls along three separate winding pathways that depict an American flag with an eagle, and the words "In God We Trust". This pattern was cut in late June using a small tractor and Global Positioning System. An average journey will take as little as 30 minutes to complete one maze trail, or as long as 60-90 minutes for all three pathways. A smaller labyrinth will be created on three acres for children, called Lil' Shucks Mini Maze.

In addition to the corn mazes, Shuck's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch will have a wide variety of activities that is included in one general admission price: Hay Mountain, a youth fun zone with Hay Jump, hay rides, zip lines, corn crib, steer roping challenge, and pumpkin throwing. Grounds access is free all season to encourage families and groups to have picnics, browse the pumpkin patch and take autumn photographs.

General Admission is \$11.00 for everyone 3 and over; free for children 2 and under, and includes access to the large and mini Mazes and main courtyard activities (hay ride, Hay Jump, zip line, corn crib and steer roping). Senior admission is \$8.00 (65 years and older) and Military/Civil Service admission (including law enforcement and medical personnel) is \$9.00 with valid identification. Additional fees apply for other activities, such as nine shots on the Corn Cannon for \$3.00, and rides on the Barrel Train for \$1.00 per person. Concession items and pumpkins from the pumpkin patch will be priced separately. Group rates are available for any group 15 and larger.

Field trips will be scheduled weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. beginning as early as Labor Day, Sept. 7. Each educational field trip will last about two and a half hours and admission through the corn maze, visit to the pumpkin patch and grounds access to other activities. Hands-on educational teaching is provided by Angie Scharig, who has an M. S. degree in Elementary Education (teaching activities meet the Missouri State and Kansas State Performance Standards). And, each visitor with a field trip receives a free pass to come back another time. Field trips are priced at \$6.50 per child; teachers and bus drivers are free.

There were over 600 mazes in North America last year, typically created with corn or hay bales, and 40 mazes in Missouri (*according to [www.pumpkinpatchesandmore.org](http://www.pumpkinpatchesandmore.org)*). The MAiZE will cut eight mazes across the state in 2009, and five in Kansas. Since they are living agritourism venues, corn mazes and pumpkin patches are seasonal and close when the plants turn brown, or crops are harvested. Shuck's Family Fun Farm - Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch - will close Saturday, October 31.

#### **OPERATING HOURS & LOCATION**

GENERAL ADMISSION

**September 12 to October 31**

*Fridays – 6pm to 10pm*

*Saturdays – 10am to 10pm*

*Sundays – 1pm to 6pm*

GROUPS/FIELD TRIPS – by reservation only

**September 7 to October 30**

*Mon-Fri – 9:30am to 3pm All Groups*

*Wed – 7:00pm to 10:00 Church Youth Nights*

More information is available at [www.shucksmaze.com](http://www.shucksmaze.com). To reserve Field Trips and group outings, call 816-204- 7035, or reserve your date online.

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Shuck's Family Fun Farm – Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch

20156 S. State 291 Hwy, Pleasant Hill, Mo. 64081

*"A short country drive from the city."*