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## **My Memories of Duncan Farm**

Franklin Township is a great place to grow up. There are many farms in our community. My road is full of farms. Everywhere I look, there is a farm. Duncan Farm is right next door to my house, and I have great memories of growing up here.

When I was younger, my family used to buy Christmas trees there, the farm was named Duncan Farm. My sister and I would run down the rows of trees looking for the perfect one. We would be all bundled up racing around. When we would finally find the perfect tree, we would chop down the tree with a saw and then run down the road with the tree. My grandpa would let me help him cut the tree down. I would climb under all the branches and lay on the cold, wet ground.

My favorite memory was finding praying mantis eggs in our tree. Jessie, the owner, used to put praying mantis eggs in some of the trees. They put the praying mantis eggs in the trees because they eat insects that hurt the trees. We somehow managed to cut down one of the trees with praying mantis babies. Then when we were taking the decorations off the tree, they hatched and ran everywhere. It was a fun and somewhat gross time. My sister and I tried to catch all of them. They were so fast and hopping over our house. Then the farm didn't have many buyers for the Christmas trees. The trees grew too big to put in a house. So they stopped selling trees. They started planning elderberry bushes and other plants. Elderberries are very beneficial for our immune system. They also started selling their alpaca's hair. This is when they changed the name of the farm to Duncan Farm and Fiber.

Now Duncan Farm and Fiber is an alpaca farm. Every spring they shear the alpacas and spin the wool into string and fiber. They make socks and yarn out of the strings and fiber. Once I was outside with my dad throwing the football and one of their alpacas ran into our yard. It was fun trying to get the alpaca to go back to Jessie's house. She had to get his food and shake it so he would come back. Peaches is my favorite to try and spot in the fields. She has hair the color of golden fire. She is so soft. When I'm outside I can hear the alpacas scream. Their scream sounds like a mix of a wolf howl and a screaming child. When I'm going to school, I can see them playing tag and ramming into each other. They seem to have a lot of fun!

Farming is important everywhere. I love being able to go outside and see horses, cows, and other farm animals. I feel very fortunate to live in Franklin Township with how many farms are in our community. I hope our township always stays rural and keeps farming as important as it is today in the future.