

The 2025 Defiance Chapter's Farm Boys Tour

By Dave Plassman

2025 Farm Boys Tour cars head down a tree-lined country road.

Dave and Kelly Copeland hosted the 40th Defiance Chapter Farm Boys Tour held during August 24-28, 2025. The 2025 tour was based out of French Lick, Indiana. Tourists met at the French Lick Resort on the afternoon of August 24. There was plenty of parking for our cars and trailers. Our opening banquet was held in a reserved room at the resort. We enjoyed meeting members not only from Indiana but also from Ohio, Michigan, Colorado, South Dakota, Texas, Illinois, North Carolina, and Idaho. These are the most states represented on a Farm Boys Tour!

On Monday morning, we headed out on our first day's tour to Patoka Lake for a boat ride. The weather was perfect, and there were many things to see as we circled the lake.

Next, we drove country roads to Marengo Cave Park. The cave is on the United States National Natural Landmark list. In 1883, siblings Orrie (11) and Blanche (15) Hiestand discovered the cave on September 6. After lunch, we toured the cave. It has a refreshing constant temperature of 52 F degrees. The cave tours were excellent. We wound our way through narrow passages and interesting walking paths. We then returned to the resort after a fun day.



John Zimmerman and Jeanine Ingram's 1983 AMC Eagle with Steve Fitzgerald's 1955 Ford Victoria at the Gasthof Amish Village Restaurant.





Michael Lauth and Susan Thornton's 1941 Cadillac Sedan at the French Lick West Baden Museum.

only had to cross the street in front of the museum, and we were back where we started!

On Wednesday, country driving took us to Pioneer Village in Spring Mill State Park. On the way to the village, we could stop at the Virgil Grissom Memorial Museum in Mitchell, Indiana. You may remember Virgil Grissom as one of our first astronauts.

At the Spring Mill Park Pioneer Village, there were walking paths through the park. The village features costumed docents who gave tours and demon-

strated crafts. There is a collection of over 20 buildings on the property, including a working 1817 gristmill, where you could buy freshly ground cornmeal, and a blacksmith shop. After lunch there we returned to the resort on many windy, hilly country roads. The route made for a lively drive back.

On Tuesday morning, the group took a relaxing and scenic drive through Amish country. We passed many horses and buggies along the roads. Children on their way to school grinned and waved as we drove by. We arrived at Gasthof Amish Village in Montgomery, Indiana, to check out its buildings, including the antique shop and museum. The Amish provided a huge buffet for lunch. Many other visitors that day kept the lunch room busy. On our return to the French Lick Resort, we stopped at the French Lick West Baden Museum, which features interesting displays. The return to the resort was a piece of cake. We

Left to right: Don and Annette Werner stand with Pluto at the French Lick West Baden Museum. Tim and Linda Jackson found a nice spot to relax before hitting the road.





*Above: Chris and Maria Di Terlizzi's 1923 Dodge Screen Side with Maria behind the steering wheel.
Below: A hungry giraffe reaches to nibble on freshly picked leaves from Nancy Wilt.*

On Thursday, our last tour day, we headed to Wilstem Safari Park in Paoli, Indiana, which features large, open, and wooded areas. We were given a hayride and cups of food to feed the animals. The hay wagon rides allowed us to feed ostriches, emus, longhorn cattle, zebras, llamas, and more. (They all ate out of our hands.) The wildlife park also had a large building full of animals to visit, including young offspring. Lunch was in the loft of their massive barn.

The Farm Boys Tour, hosted by Dave and Kelly Copeland, featured fantastic country roads, engaging stops, and delicious meals. The French Lick Resort was fabulous! As I prepared to return home, I heard a whisper that the 2026 Farm Boys Tour may be under consideration. Thanks again, Dave and Kelly, for a great time!

(Photos by Kelly Copeland and Dave Plassman)

