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# STARHILL FARMS

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WELCOME BOOK



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## WELCOME

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StarHill Farms is on a rolling 300+ acre setting nestled between Mill Creek and Sandy Creek in Austin County, Texas.

It is located 81 miles from Houston, 96 miles from Austin and 147 miles from San Antonio. This area of Austin County was the original part of Stephen F. Austin's land grant from the Mexican Government and was settled primarily with Germans and Czechs.

Friedrich and Julia Sternenberg left Germany in 1849 and arrived in Houston, Texas in January 1850. They had 7 sons and 2 daughters. From Houston, the Sternbergs landed in Austin County and bought the present-day StarHill Farms property from Bryant Daughtrey, who had moved to Texas in 1822 and was



given one league (approx. 4605 acres) from the Mexican Government as part of Stephen F. Austin's Second Colony. (Note that Sternenberg translates from German to mean Star Hill.) His wife Anna Daughtrey, who died in 1847, is buried in nearby Star Hill Cemetery, as are many of the Sternenberg decedents.

Carl Otto Sternenberg, the third son of Friedrich, purchased the property in 1877 and after marrying Elizabeth Meissner in 1878, raised 12 children here. The homestead still stands on its original site. Carl, like several of his siblings, was born in Germany and immigrated to Texas when he was 11 years old. In 1861, Carl joined the Confederate Army. His company was organized at Shelby. It is said that he was a member of the Austin County Boys, who joined Captain Von Hoebel's Company.



Carl Otto and his family made this area in the Star Hill Community their home until it was sold in 1966 to the Beach family. Over the years, two other families have owned the farmland, including the current owners: the Frappier family. The Frappier family purchased the homestead in 1996 and have since been restoring this area of Austin County back to its original roots, calling it StarHill Farms.



## CABIN ON THE HILL

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The Seidel House, better known at StarHill Farms as the Cabin on the Hill, was built in Austin County in 1849 for the Seidel Family. It was originally a dogtrot style house with two log cabins connected together with a breezeway. In 1939, 90 years later, the house was closed in around the logs to expand the home. During that time, the family placed a time capsule in the walls of the house to be discovered when the house was disassembled around 1992. That time capsule is framed and preserved and currently sits on the mantle in the cabin.

In 1998, one of the two cabins that made up the original Seidel House was relocated to the secluded hilltop spot on StarHill Farms overlooking Mill Creek and became known as Cabin on the Hill. It was then fully renovated for people to enjoy, with custom fixtures, reclaimed wood, stone improvements, as well as one-of-a-kind antiques.



## HINZE CABIN

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The Hinze Cabin is believed to have been the homestead of the Fehrenkamp and Heinsohn families as they emigrated from Germany and Czechoslovakia. It was built in Frelsburg, Texas around 1845. Frelsburg is an unincorporated community in Colorado County, Texas that lies at the intersection of FM 109 and FM 1291. The community was founded around 1837 by Capt. William Frels and his brother Jack. It is home to one of the oldest surviving General Stores in Texas. The Heinsohn's Country Store has been continuously operating by the Heinsohn family since 1865. Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Frelsburg, which has been designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery, is the resting place for many of the Fehrenkamp and Heinsohn family members.

This log cabin was moved to StarHill Farms in 2011 where it was fully renovated with custom fixtures, reclaimed wood and stone improvements as well as one-of-a-kind antiques. It is situated on the edge of our horse stable overlooking Yancey Pond and horse pastures.



## BADER CABIN

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The Bader Cabin, early 1900s, was relocated to this shady spot overlooking the Yancey Pond. Fully renovated with custom fixtures, reclaimed wood and stone improvements as well as one-of-a-kind antiques.

This original log house was preserved and stands as a fitting memorial to the sturdy pioneers who so truly built for the future.





## THE RANCH HOUSE

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The Ranch House on StarHill Farms was an original dogtrot style home built in the late 1800's. The dogtrot is a style of house that was common throughout the Southeastern United States during the 19th and 20th centuries. The main style point was a large breezeway through the center of the house to cool occupants in the hot southern climate. It was originally built around the corner from StarHill Farms on Post Oak Point Road, which runs from Hwy 159 near Industry to FM 109 near the Eckermann's Meat Market in New Ulm.

The house was relocated from Post Oak Point Road to the current site overlooking a panoramic landscape around 1993. At that time, we enclosed the breezeway creating more living space and modernizing it. The house was further renovated with custom fixtures, one-of-a-kind antiques, reclaimed wood, and an expansive deck overlooking the back fields and Big Pond.



## THE BIGGS HOUSE

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The Biggs House is a recent addition to the StarHill Farms Family. It is a 50-year old ranch style house that has been renovated and updated. It is named after the first owners, Gloria Sternenberg and J.P. "Pinky" Biggs. Gloria was the youngest daughter of Max and Helen Sternenberg, who was born and grew up on the Star Hill property in the Star Hill Community. Gloria and Pinky owned and operated "Pinky's Cafe", a popular place in the area. In 2010 the Masson Family bought the house and renovated it to today's modern standards. In 2017, the Frappier Family purchased the property to add to the original Star Hill (Sternenberg) homestead. The house is much younger than the other structures on StarHill Farms although it is full of antiques to remind you of times gone by.

## FARM ACTIVITIES

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### HORSEBACK RIDING

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Explore the trails surrounding StarHill Farms from the saddle of a horse! There are four horses available. You must be 10 years of age or older to ride. Advance reservations & payment required.

**Contact: Lisee Smalley (979) 877-4881**

### HIKING

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Explore the miles of trails throughout the 300+ acres of StarHill Farms, including the creeks and ponds and open fields. There is a **souvenir trail map** at the back of the guest book for you to use as your guide.

## BIKING

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On or off road. You can ride throughout the property or take to the many miles of open road in the surrounding area.

## FISHING

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There are three ponds and two creeks on the StarHill Farms property for your use and enjoyment (Catch and Release Only). Use your own bait and tackle to fish the ponds and creeks for Catfish, Bass, Perch, Bluegill and Crappie.



## SUNRISES AND SUNSETS

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Catch the most beautiful times of the day from any vantage point at the Farm.

## PHOTOGRAPHY AND PAINTING

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Capture year-round beauty, including sunsets, wildflowers, the famous bluebonnets, and farm animals to name a few.

## FIRE PITS & FIREPLACES

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Fire is a natural element, both powerful and beautiful, and we love to build fires at the farm. It is important to be safe and respectful of building and handling fire. Below are some tips to ensure you get the best experience and remain safe. Restrict all fires to fire pits and fireplaces. (Please no campfires.) Firewood is provided at each cabin and around each fire pit.



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## BUILDING A FIRE

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- Open damper.
- Make sure grate is towards the back of fireplace.
- Make sure wood is towards the back of the grate with kindling under the wood.
- Prime fireplace with heat from a wound up piece of paper. Light paper and hold up under the damper. This will help pull the smoke up the chimney.
- Light kindling under the wood first. The smoke should pull up into the chimney and the remaining wood should catch fire.
- Be sure to keep screen in front of fire **at all times**.
- Do not leave a fire unattended. It needs to be died down before you leave or go to bed.
- In case of fire there is a fire extinguisher under the kitchen sink. Contact us 713-524-2638 or, if necessary, dial 911.



## BIRDING

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Over 42 varieties of birds have been recorded on the Farm.

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### BIRD SIGHTINGS AT STARHILL FARMS

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Black-bellied Whistling-Duck  
Mallard  
Lesser Scaup  
Anhinga  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Cattle Egret  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Mississippi Kite  
White-tailed Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Killdeer  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Eurasian Collared-Dove  
Inca Dove  
Tufted Titmouse  
Carolina Wren  
Eastern Bluebird  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Northern Parula  
Lark Sparrow

Mourning Dove  
Barred Owl  
Common Nighthawk  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Crested Caracara  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Barn Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Northern Cardinal  
Painted Bunting  
Eastern Meadow Lark  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
House Sparrow

## WEDDING & EVENTS

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After opening StarHill Farms to guests, we've been happy to share the farm for a variety of events. While small weddings are a popular offering, we also are available for retreats and parties.

We recently renovated **The Blu Cabin**, converting a historic 1800's log cabin into an outdoor event hub. It has a food prep area, restrooms and dressing area. It's located near The Ranch House overlooking the pond in a field of bluebonnets. Please contact us if you'd like a tour or information for future events.



## HELPFUL INFO

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### **Welcome to the Country**

... to our special place that gives you wide open spaces, fresh air, stars in the night sky and peaceful quiet.



Please keep in mind, this is a working ranch. We want you to experience this beautiful landscape and wide open spaces of the country, but it is important that you are aware of your surroundings in order to be safe and enjoy this experience.

There is a souvenir map in the back of this book for you to use and take as a memento if you wish. It shows the entire property for you to explore.

Some things to consider while exploring: stay on trails, as you go through a gate leave it as you found it – open or closed.

All kinds of bugs, insects and critters are out here. They naturally come with the outdoors. Many bugs and insects are attracted to light so be mindful of that with open doors and windows in the evenings. If doors are left open, particularly in the evenings with lights on, you may get a four-legged visitor.

Be aware that there are snakes on our property and during certain times of



the year they are more active. Please do not abruptly poke your head or hands into spaces that you cannot see clearly. If walking the property, please pay attention to where you are stepping.

If you choose to walk amongst the cattle, do that at your own risk. Be cautious, particularly if they have calves with them. They will be very protective of them.

Be mindful of your surroundings and respectful of the land and the animals. They will be sure to give you back an incredible experience.



## HELPFUL CONTACTS

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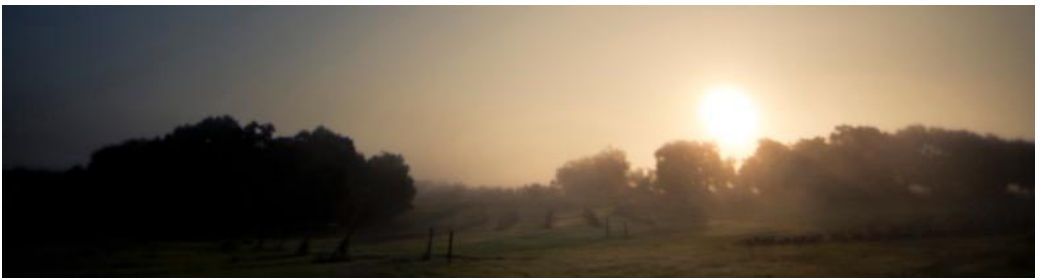
**StarHill Farms Manager: Stacy Holcomb** (979) 299-8387

**StarHill Farms Office** (713) 524-2638

**Bellville General Hospital** (979) 413-7400

44 N. Cummings Rd. Bellville TX, 77418

**DIAL 911** For Emergency Assistance Police, Fire & Medical



## INTERNET SERVICE

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There is Internet Service available in many areas on our property.

The Hinze Cabin and the area surrounding the yellow Farm House have service. The Wi-Fi passwords are:

**starhill1**

The Ranch House has internet service. The password is:

**starhill2**

The Biggs House has internet service. The password is:

**starhill3**

The Cabin on the Hill does not have internet service. However, you can access the internet using the password from the yellow Farm House(starhill1). You are welcome to sit at the stone picnic table in the front yard of the yellow Farm House or in case of rain, the side porch, to access service if you need to.



## HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

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Please make yourselves at home. Here are some ways to keep the cabins in great shape and help us maintain the integrity of the StarHill Farms experience for all guests.



- ★ **Garbage:** Excess garbage can be placed in the outside garbage bins in each cabin or house.
- ★ **Temperatures:** We've found that it's best to keep temperatures within certain ranges. Please avoid setting the cold temperatures below **65°F** & the heat above **72°F**.
- ★ **Mud:** Please avoid tracking mud into the cabins or houses. Kindly remove your shoes either outside or right inside the door if they are muddy.
- ★ **Doors:** Keep doors closed as best as possible. At night, the bugs are attracted to the light, which is intense inside our places compared to the outside darkness.
- ★ **TV:** If you are logged into our Wi-Fi TV, be sure to log out before leaving for your own protection.
- ★ **Antiques:** Be mindful of the antiques, they all have their own history that we want to preserve.



## DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

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Before leaving, use this list to help close up. We sincerely hope you enjoyed your stay. Thanks for helping us keep StarHill Farms beautiful. We hope you return soon.

### 1. **Bedding:**

- ★ Keep all beds that were slept in unmade.

### 2. **Towels:**

- ★ Please keep towels off the wood floors. Either hang used towels & dishrags, or place them in the bathtub or shower.

### 3. **Dishes:**

- ★ Dispose of all food in the trash.
- ★ In the Ranch House or Biggs House, run the dishes in the dishwasher before leaving.
- ★ In the Cabin on the Hill or Hinze Cabin, wash dishes before leaving or simply rinse dishes & leave them in the sink.

### 4. **Temperature Settings:**

- ★ Summertime: set the air conditioner to **78°F**.
- ★ Wintertime: set the heat thermostat to **60°F**.

### 5. **Windows:**

- ★ Shut all windows.

**6. Curtains:**

- ★ Close all blinds and curtains.

**7. Fans:**

- ★ Turn on all inside ceiling fans to the low setting.

**8. Lights:**

- ★ Turn off all lights, including the porch lights.

**9. Food:**

- ★ Remove perishable food from the refrigerator. Take it with you, or dispose of in the black garbage bags provided.

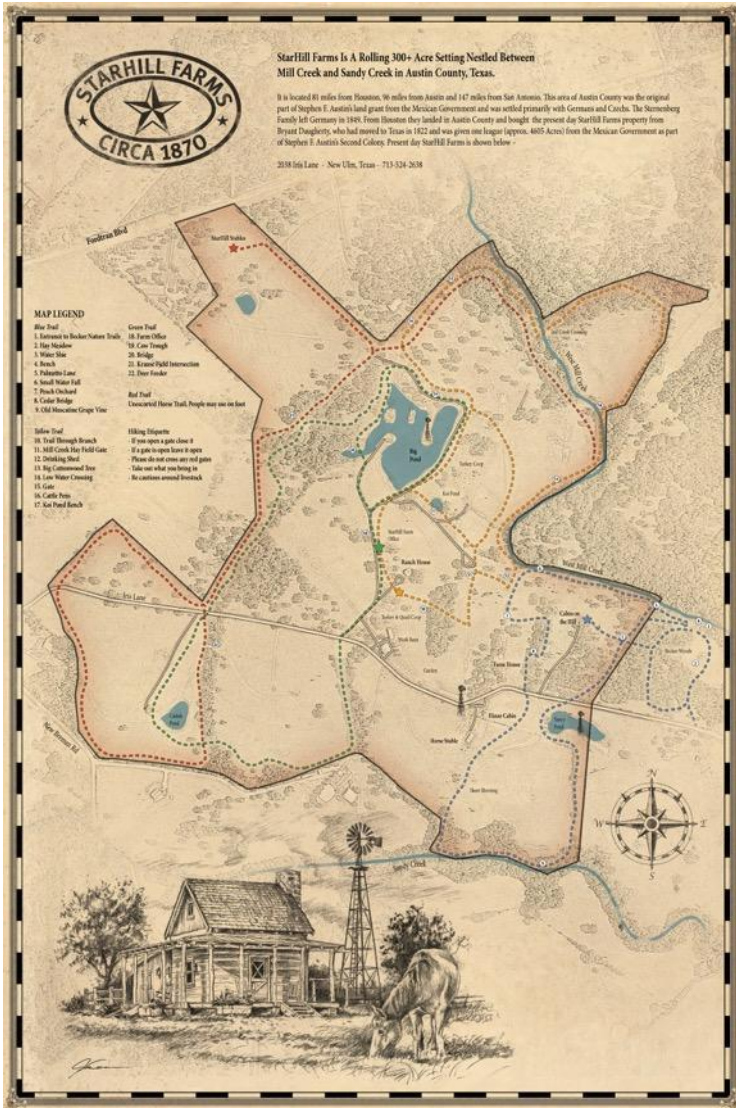
**10. Trash:**

- ★ Empty all trash cans into the black garbage bags provided.
- ★ Leave the garbage bags tied up by the inside trashcans or place them in the garbage cans accessible outside each cabin or house.

*THANK YOU FOR THIS KIND HELP AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN SOON.*

# PROPERTY MAP

Souvenir copies of the map are in the back of the guest book for you to take. They're useful while you explore the farm and make for a great keepsake.



## GROCERY STORES

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### **Lindemann Store**

7745 Ernst Parkway  
Industry, TX 78944  
(4 miles away)  
(979)357-2121

### **Brookshire Brothers**

720 S Front St.  
Bellville, TX 77418  
(15 miles away)  
(979)865-8380

## RESTAURANTS

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### NEARBY

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### **The Kenney Store**

811 S. Loop 497  
Kenney, TX  
(15 miles away)  
(979)865-2404

### **Texas Star Cafe**

24131 Bastrop St.  
New Ulm, TX  
(10 miles away)  
(979)992-3522

### **Welcome Texas General Store**

12528 FM 109  
Industry, TX  
(9 miles away)  
(979)353-1751

**Bel Tovoio Pizzeria Caffe and Bar**

639 Taylor St.  
New Ulm, TX  
(7 miles away)  
(979)992-3701

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BELLVILLE RESTAURANTS

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*12 MILES AWAY*

**Bellville Meat Market**

36 South Front St.  
Bellville, TX 77481  
(979) 865-5782

**Farm to Market Produce Co.**

East Palm St. Bellville, TX, 77418  
(979) 865-3679

**Twenty Two North Holland**

22 N. Holland St.  
Bellville, TX 77418  
(979) 865-3000

**Newman's Bakery**

504 East Main  
Bellville, TX 77418  
(979) 865-9804

**The Hill**

758 West Main  
Bellville, TX 77418

(979) 865-3607

**Cochran Grill**

10711 Highway 159 E  
Bauer Rummel  
Bellville, TX 77418  
(281) 728-7108  
(24 miles)

**Huff Brewing Co.**

11 East Main St.  
Bellville, TX 77418  
(979)270-1365

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FAYETTEVILLE RESTAURANTS

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*17 MILES AWAY*

**Joe's Place**

120 N. Live Oak  
Fayetteville, TX  
(979) 378-9035

**Orsak's Cafe**

121 W. Fayette  
St.  
Fayetteville, TX  
(979) 378-2719

**Pivo's Ice  
House**

1564 FM-1291  
Fayetteville, TX  
(979) 732-2290

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ROUND TOP RESTAURANTS

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17 MILES AWAY

**LULU'S**

204 E Mill Street  
Round Top, TX 78954  
(979) 249-5171

**Royer's Round Top Cafe**

105 Main St.  
Round Top, TX 78954  
(979) 249-3611

**Paw Paw's FireHouse Café**

2290 S. Hwy 237 @ Hills Rd.  
Round Top, TX 78954  
(713) 385-8778

**Prost Wine Bar and Patio**

112 Bauer Rummel  
Round Top, TX 78954  
(979) 249-5981

**The Stone Cellar**

550 N Washington St  
Round Top, TX 78954  
(979) 249-3390