



Rose Sparks/Index

Senior Ethan Kleekamp drives Monday morning on the University Farm. Kleekamp is one of four students who live on the Farm rent-free in exchange for 10 hours of work a week.

# Rideshare benefits students

RideShare Facebook group helps students save money and make new friends

BY ALEX CARLSON  
Staff Reporter

Truman State students are finding ways to save gas and make new friends through Rideshare.

Senior Dylan Salata runs the Truman RideShare Facebook page, a forum to organize student carpools to and from Kirksville. Each week, more than 50 people post on the group's Facebook page about where they're going or need to go, and how many people they are traveling with.

Salata started the Facebook page during 2009 with help from sociology students who were studying changes in social environments. The study helped Salata get attention from students to promote the Facebook page.

Salata uses the RideShare service for his monthly trips home to St. Louis. It has helped him save 50 to 100 percent on gas expenses.

"If you don't have a car, it's a pretty handy service since you can catch a ride with people," Salata said. "It also has less consumption monetarily and gas-wise, but really it's a community builder. You don't always have to be alone driving yourself. You can accompany people on a three or four-hour ride, and that's what I think is really important."

Freshman Michelle Rivera discovered the RideShare service page while she was surfing the Class of 2015 Facebook page during October and looking for a fellow driver to travel with to Kansas City, Mo. Rivera was directed to the RideShare Facebook page. Since then, she said she uses the service during Truman breaks.

While saving money and gas originally attracted her to RideShare, Rivera said she continues to use it to meet new people or travel with friends who live near the Kansas City area.

Rivera said the RideShare page has made driving much safer because her friends navigate while she drives, she said.

She said she has also noticed that her social life has grown since participating in the RideShare program. She's become close friends with the people she's driven with and said she has become more sociable and open to meeting new people through RideShare.

"I've driven with the same girl, Sadie Roman, since I first went to the page," Rivera said. "Most of the time, I'll send a private message to her if I can offer a ride. Since then, we've become really good friends, so I have RideShare to thank for that."

Sophomore Keithlee Spangler's use of RideShare has earned her some long-distance trips from local Truman students. She heard about the RideShare page through the Environmental Campus Organization. Spangler said RideShare is her sole use of Facebook.

Spangler discovered a student who needed fellow travelers for a Chicago trip. With nothing else to do that weekend, Spangler immediately contacted the student and traveled to Chicago for the weekend.

"It was really impulsive," Spangler said. "I saw the post and I didn't want to be in Kirksville for a weekend, so we left Friday afternoon for Chicago. I really like the city and I went to a few concerts there too. It was pretty much on a whim."

She made new friends on the Chicago trip, where the travelers discussed in-depth philosophical subjects such as transcendentalism and the literature of Henry David Thoreau. Spangler said the trip was a great learning experience.

Salata will pass the group's control on to another ECO student upon graduation. Until then, he continues to manage the page and ensure students are using it responsibly.

"The group is open, so if someone wants to request a ride, they can be added and can post," Salata said. "We want it to be open to everyone who needs it. That's my plan for the page."

# Working for a room

Truman State students work on the University Farm to live there rent free

BY DAVID HUTCHINSON  
Staff Reporter

After a long day of classes, senior Ethan Kleekamp retires to the Truman State University Farm where livestock await their supper. In exchange for his work, Kleekamp lives in a duplex at the Farm, along with three other Truman students — rent free.

For 10 hours of labor each week, Kleekamp and seniors Daniel Cook and Kathleen Keough are permitted to live on the Farm, saving cash and gathering educational experiences along the way.

Having grown up in a rural area and feeling cramped living in the residence halls, Kleekamp wanted to move off campus during the end of his sophomore year.

After prior engagements fell apart, Kleekamp said he came across a flier in the Student Union Building and contacted Farm Manager Bill Kuntz. Kleekamp said Kuntz informed him that all four spots still were vacant so he submitted his application and began living on the Farm the fall of his junior year. Two years into his living arrangement, Kleekamp said life on the Farm has worked well for him.

Away from campus, Kleekamp said he has been able to keep up with his archery hobby and walk the 300 acres of land to clear his head when life as a Truman student becomes rough.

"Living on the Farm has been one of the neatest things that happened to me here at Truman," he said. "I've been able to get away from all the chaos of campus life, and separate myself a little bit from [the busy campus environment]."

On paper, the 10 hours of contractual labor he must put in each week does not seem like much commitment, but he said they are much larger in practice. Because chores like feeding livestock need to be done at precise hours, Kleekamp said they sometimes interrupt his studies. Kleekamp also has a scholarship job that he commits four or five hours a week to, so getting a job for spending



Rose Sparks/Index

Senior Ethan Kleekamp inspects the garden Monday morning at the University Farm where he works and lives. Kleekamp moved to the farm his junior year and said he enjoys living away from campus chaos.

money would be difficult, he said. For the academic year, the primary responsibility of the tenants on the Farm is to feed the livestock and keep the animals' living environments clean. The paid farm staff does most of the work directly related to farm maintenance.

Keough lives on the other half of the duplex complex with another female Truman student. Although living arrangements are determined by gender, Keough said gender roles stop there. She helps feed the livestock twice a day at 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.: a routine they have perfected so even the deer know when feeding time is. Keough hails from suburban St. Louis but appreciates the outdoors due in part to her involvement with horseback riding.

Like Kleekamp, Cook grew up in a rural town and was drawn to the slower-paced lifestyle, he said. Cook already had established a relationship with Kuntz before applying to live on the Farm. Cook worked with Kuntz during his sophomore year, completing tasks around the Farm for his scholarship job. Toward the end of his service he was encouraged to seek residence on the Farm. As an agricultural science major, Cook said he loves the direct contact with the animals, as both an educational experience and entertainment.

The money he has saved has contributed to his positive outlook about his living arrangement. With that money, he recently purchased a ring and became engaged to his fiancée.



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