J ust just the main office building at Truman State’s University Farm sits a building with beige-colored walls, a set of wooden porches and the beginnings of ivy growth trailing up one side. This building was Farm Hall.

Farm Hall is divided into two sides, one for women and the other for men. Each apartment comes complete with a community living room, eating area and kitchen as well as a bedroom for each resident. In addition, the hall boasts two wooden porches where residents can enjoy an evening together watch the sunset or host a barbeque.

Each year, upperclassmen from Truman have the opportunity to join a student housing community where they can live, work and gain hands-on experience. Farm Hall provides housing in exchange for student work at the farm.

Freshman Haley Johnson rides her horse, Yankee, Sept. 6 at the University Farm. Johnson is a new member of the Equestrian Team and keeps her horse at the University Farm. The farm is home to four students who live in Farm Hall in exchange for their service on the farm.

Senior Francois Makarewicz, Farm Hall student advisor, said he has lived at the Farm since spring 2013. He said he said, “You have to forgo things that you would do were you not living out here.” Makarewicz said in exchange for their living arrangement, Farm Hall residents must complete 10 hours of work per week. According to this agreement, Farm Hall residents are assigned tasks. However, the arrangement does not include a meal plan, Makarewicz said. He said the students prioritize Farm Hall’s hours with meeting and evening chores such as feeding and checking on the animals.

“We communicate with [Farm Hall] daily to see what he needs help with,” Makarewicz said.

The students also assist farmers with tasks such as fence repair and monitoring the cows during calving season. Makarewicz said he said the past year these chores included everything from planting and tending the fields, stacking the hay barn and changing a flat wagon tire to tending bonfires for groups of fellow students and the surrounding countryside.

“Going into my senior year I have a job offer doing some of these duties have included everything from planting and tending the fields, stacking the hay barn and changing a flat wagon tire to tending bonfires for groups of fellow students and the surrounding countryside. This scenery is mind-blowing.”

Students who are not agricultural science majors typically apply to live at the Farm because they come from a farming background or are interested in animal science. She has taken courses in bovine science, animal nutrition and reproduction and now is helping to monitor the cow herd.

Senior Anna Lotts is living in Farm Hall for the first time this semester. Lotts said the Farm is much more than a place to live — it is a community and learning experience like no other.

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Although the Farm has provided valuable experience in marketing, growing crops and farming in general, Lotts said she also values other opportunities to make new connections, and the thinking behind this community has expanded his network.

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Lotts said the Farm is open to everyone. However, before applying the grounds, students should check it with their future.

Makarewicz said, “I would encourage everyone to come out and have a look.” Makarewicz said you can’t ride your bike, call your dog, drive a horse, drive a car, drive a horse, drive a car. Jerry said if you want to just drive on the ground, you know, just take a lap, not even get out of your car.”

There are many recreational activities at Farm Hall, Makarewicz said. He said he to give horse backing with his roommate senior Stephen Lotts during the calving season. A few of other opportunities among Farm Hall residents include mushroom hunting, star gazing and birding, Makarewicz said.

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