AW SHUCKS

Getting lost in a corn maze just part of fall fun down on the farm

By Katherine Rodeghier

Playing hide-and-go-seek in a maze of corn stalks has an all-ages appeal on Midwest farms. A few spots to get lost this fall; check websites for hours, prices and other autumn amusements.

➤ Richardson Adventure Farm

Spring Grove, III.

The World Series-winning Chicago Cubs shine in a maze design covering a 33-acre cornfield with more than 10 miles of trails. Activities abound, including five maze games, lasting 10 minutes to two hours. Reach all of the labyrinth's checkpoints and you'll get a color poster of the maze. Last year's farm attendance topped 80,000 people. 815-675-9729.

richardsonadventurefarm.com

► Harvestville Farm Ponnellson, lowa

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A 10-acre maze includes a mini maze for little ones. It's BYO flashlight for adults looking for a challenge in the Flashlight Maze on Saturday nights in October. The farm has 40 acres of pumpkins for picking, play areas, rides and games.

319-470-1558, harvestvillefarm.com

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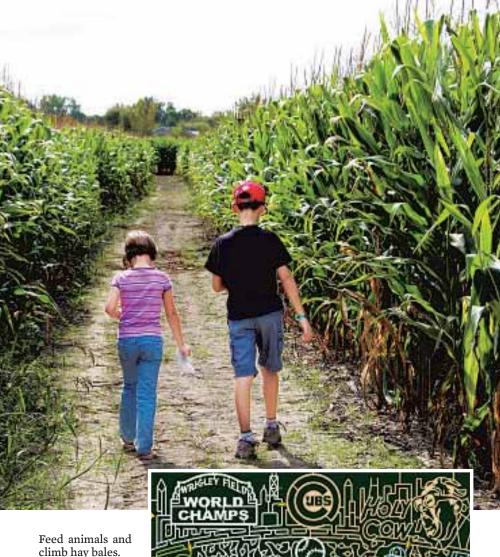


checkpoints along 8 miles of trails inside an 18-acre maze. The farm is expected to draw 50,000 folks this fall. Bring a flashlight for an after-dark adventure and fixings for s'mores if you rent a fire pit. 765-296-2863,

explorationacres.com

➤ Treinen Farm Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch Lodi, Wis.

A trilobite, the state fossil, is the theme of a 15-acre maze with 6 miles of trails cut by hand. Be a farm kid for a day with a hayride drawn by Belgian draft horses to the pumpkin patch.



Feed animals and climb hay bales. 608-622-7407, treinenfarm.com

➤ Crane Orchards

Fennville, Mich.

This U-pick farm with apples, peaches and sweet cherries carves out a 20-acre corn maze come fall. Weekend hayrides run late September through October. Kids love to climb aboard the cow train. The orchard rents a four-bedroom vacation house next door on Hutchins Lake. 269-561-8651, craneorchards.com ■

The corn maze makers at Richardson Adventure Farm in Spring Grove, III., used this Cubs-centric design for this year's maze, which debuts Sept. 2.