

Why I Like Living in the Country

by Staci Bradshaw, age 15

There are fun things to do during every time of year at our house in the country. On some of the warm days in June and July, my brothers and sisters and I were hot and sticky by early afternoon. Then we could cool off by running down through the woods to the creek and taking a dip in our small ice-cold swimming hole. This is one of the many blessings of country life. By the time we got out of the water we would be shivering, and ready to spend a few minutes having a grass-blade-whistling contest while sitting on a sunny log over the water.

We even play in the woods in winter! When it snows, we get out the sleds and ride them down a "sled track" some of the kids cleared. It's an extremely adventurous and thrilling ride, especially if you hit a tree. And on some wet days in April, we play tag down there. It's easy to hide because of all the new green growth. After a game is over, everyone is soaking wet and covered with mud and scratches. But we always have a great time.

At this time of year the days are growing shorter, and in the mornings there is a bite in the air that feels like fall. But we still

enjoy some warm and sunny afternoons to work in the yard. After ten years of living here, we've established a vegetable garden, rows of berry plants, a chicken coop, and several young fruit trees. Something can always use weeding, watering, or cleaning—and there's eight kids to do it! I can't imagine my family living anywhere else, and I hope we never will.