

Orphan Farms in Arizona

by David Michael

The Dream

In the early morning of the 15th of December 2018, I dreamed I was at St Michaels Abbey in Bowie Arizona where I live. A few others were here helping me do some outside work around the Abbey and the discussion came up about the need to house orphans. I stated that here at the Abbey was a good place for orphans to live as a developing homestead type farm. We discussed this further and thought that this is what we should do. The dream then ended.

Are Orphanages Allowed?

I later wondered when reflecting on this dream if it was even possible to have orphanages in America any more. Most kids seem to be placed into foster care families and are not housed in large groups at working farms like many years back.

As an alternative, I thought that we could set this up as a residential agricultural school and let the State place with us needy homeless kids. Perhaps this is the right direction for us in these modern times that would be acceptable within the current socio-political climate in America.

Facility Development

To achieve this, the farm would have to be further developed with housing kids such as dorm-cabins for youth with added restroom and cooking facilities. I am currently making this an educational camp ground with the design and soon building of two outside 2-toilet bathrooms with showers. I think it may be sufficiently developed for about 8-12 kids by the end of summer 2019. It is being designed to host educational summer camps but could be also used as a more permanent residence for selected kids.

Planned Education

There are a number of classes related to agriculture that could be developed here. The main focus would be in teaching homesteading technologies in classes and with hands-on work tasks on the farm. Such classes may include:

1. Organic Food Production
2. Organic Hydroponic Systems
3. Sensor-Computer-Control Systems
4. Composting and Worms
5. Small Animal Production
6. Draft Animal Power
7. Alternative Energy Systems (geothermal, hydro, wind and solar)
8. Housing and Construction
9. Auto/Farm Mechanics
10. Wells and Water Reclamation
11. Mobile Farm Systems