

# Meet Alex Ufford



**By David Lias**

david.lias@plaintalk.net  
When Alex Ufford

decided to get out of dairy farming a few years ago, it didn't take him long to find other ways to put both the extra time he gained and also a portion of his family's farm, located east of Vermillion, at 3691 E. Main Street, to good use.

A portion of the farm has been transformed to Ufford Hills Family Fun Center. The projects he has going on right now include:

- Ufford Hills Paintball.
- Ufford Hills Campgrounds.
- Ufford Hills Corn Maze.
- Ufford Hills Pumpkin Patch (for this fall).

"We also have Ufford Hills Ag, and on the ag side, we deal in seed corn, chemical, and crop insurance, and we also deal in pressure washers, for the agricultural side of things," he said.

"We're right on the south side of the road, and we currently have a big sign that says Ufford Hills Paintball. That is where we have the corn maze located, the pumpkin patch is located there, the campground is located there and the store for Ufford Hills Ag is also located there," Alex said.

He is hopeful that the

corn maze and pumpkin patch will soon be keeping him very busy.

"I'm also a full-time farmer; we farm 500 acres, so doing upgrades to the campground – we have nine RV spots with water and electricity, and we have a dump station; we have three RV spots that just have electricity – and mowing 15 acres (of the campground) takes a lot of time, and mowing the paintball fields takes a lot of time," he said.

The paintball fields include bunkers, built from cut trees brought in by Hartington Tree Service.

"We also have a big 200-foot by 200-foot tire field, in which the bunkers are stacked up tires, and last year, Stewart Oil donated 300 to 400 tires, and this year, we have had Sid's Auto Salvage from Yankton bring over three semi loads, and we've had a repair shop from over in Tyndall bring over two huge truckloads of tires," Alex said.

He still needs more tires, however, to be able to complete the latest addition to the Ufford Hills Family Fun Center: a go-kart track.

"I'm still short about 1,000 tires to get the go-kart track up and running," Alex said.

He was hoping to have the track up and running over a month ago.

"I'm hoping to have the crucial parts of the track



done by the end of the month," he said. "We just went out and we re-sprayed the track, and we're going to do some regarding. But the crucial parts is I have to have tires between the areas that are the most dangerous."

The campground was the first to come on line after Alex decided to sell his dairy herd approximately a few years ago. Paintball got added to the mix when family friends asked if their kids could use his property

for that activity.

That request led Alex to purchase the insurance that would allow him to host the sport. He was soon asked if all of the various equipment needed for the sport, from CO2 canisters to the paintballs themselves, would be available.

"Before I knew it, I decided, what the heck, we might as well open a paintball store," he said. "So, that came about by requests from the locals. The go-karts were also in

the back of my mind; I thought they'd be a lot of fun.

"So, we got a really good deal on 16 go-karts. I have them in my shed right now, collecting dust," Alex said, laughing, "so I'd really like the track to be done."

He has yet one more activity planned for the family fun center: miniature golf.

"The miniature golf just sort of came to me one night in what you could either describe as a dream or a

nightmare, as I'm saying 'man, I'm bored.' I've contacted the sculpture department at USD and hopefully I can enlist them to help me make a miniature model of the state of South Dakota and we're going to incorporate it into a mini-golf course," he said.

People may contact the family fun center on facebook, twitter or by logging on to Uffordhills.net.

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Thus peanuts, tree nuts, and products containing nut or peanut oils are prohibited. The full policy is on the district website (<http://vermillion.k12.sd.us>) and additional information is available at Austin and Jolley Schools. The district appreciates your cooperation and assistance in providing a safe environment for our students.

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General Assembly at 5:30 p.m.  
Registration will take place in the auditorium.  
Please come, even if you are pre-registered. Call if you are unable to attend.

**Classes begin: August 20, 2013**  
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There are only a few preschool openings available.  
Preschool Sessions will run:  
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(morning session: 8:30-11:00 a.m.)  
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**Contact:**  
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