



Northeast Organic Farming Association
37th Annual Summer Conference with Northeast Animal-Power Field Days
August 12-14, 2011
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
www.nofasummerconference.org

Northeast Animal-Power Field Days Workshops at the NOFA Summer Conference

Expand your knowledge of working with draft animals to do work in cropping, haying, and forestry. The adult workshops are listed first. Below that are listings of the youth workshops (Children, ages 5-12 and Teen, ages 13-17) that also touch upon animal-power.

Find more specific program details about the Northeast Animal-Power Field Days here:
<http://www.nofasummerconference.org/nepfd.php>

You can also learn about many other topics related to organic agriculture at the 2011 NOFA Summer Conference. Find a complete listing of 225+ exciting workshops on organic farming, gardening and land care, draft animal-power, homesteading, nutrition, spirituality, food politics, activism, and much, much more at this web page:
<http://www.nofasummerconference.org/workshops.php>

The conference features presenters from all over the Northeast, nearly 100 exhibitors, workshops and activities for teens and children, an afternoon fair with farm animals, live music and dances, an auction, and an ALL-LOCAL dinner. Stay on campus in the dorms or camp in a tent under the stars.

Keynote Speakers: **Eric Toensmeier**, award-winning author promoting food forestry to sequester carbon worldwide and **Ignacio Chapela**, scientist and activist on GMOs, agri-fuels, and the global food crisis.

[Register Now Online!](#)

*** Registrations received before July 11, 2011 get a \$20 discount.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2:00-3:30 PM

16) Animal-Powered Forestry Tools & Techniques, part I *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - LOGGING AREA

Brad Johnson: Owns ALL Together Farm LLC, see www.alltogetherfarm.com.

Carl Russell: Forester, horse-logger, and small scale horse farmer, Bethel, Vermont.

Brian Patten: Has over 30 years experience working cattle in the woods.

John Plowden: Professional woodsman and equipment fabricator.

In this two-session workshop, offered on Friday afternoon and repeated Saturday morning, we will hold a logging demonstration featuring several teamsters at work with their animals. A single horse, an ox team, and a horse team will work with an innovative single-horse log arch, ground skidding, a team log arch, and a scoot for log transport. (For part II, see #44).

17) Getting started with Draft Horses: Harnessing and Driving *Beginner*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TRAINING AREA

Jennifer Judkins: Runs a small, organic, diversified farm in Springfield, NH.



In this workshop, Reno – my Percheron – and I will familiarize participants with basic care and harnessing of the workhorse as it relates to driving, then we'll address driving skills, using simulations and hands-on instruction. This workshop is offered twice: Friday at 2:00 PM and Saturday at 1:00 PM.

18) Loose Hay Production with Horses *All levels*

Campus Center 917

Jay Bailey: Teaches draft horse workshops and rebuilds/sells horse-drawn mowers.

Using a power point presentation, I will give an overview of the tools and considerations necessary to succeed with putting up loose hay with horses. I will have sample hay forks, hay knives and other tools to look at and feel.

19) Mowing Hay with Animal-Power *Beginner*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - HAYFIELD

Kenneth Mulder: Farm Manager and Research Associate at Green Mountain College.

Robert Crichton: Teacher and president, Maine and New Hampshire Draft Horse Clubs.

Jake Blank: Owner of I & J Manufacturing, specializing in horse-drawn and tractor equipment.

Donn Hewes: Farms with horses and mules in Central New York.

In this workshop we will demonstrate mowing hay with oxen and mules. This workshop will feature a traditional ground drive sickle bar mower, new ground drive PTO cart with innovative European sickle bar mower, and a motorized forecart pulling a PTO haybine mower. We'll discuss the features of both types of animals and pieces of equipment.

21) Ox Yoke Making *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TRACTOR BARN

Mike Austin: Beef, dairy, and hay farmer.

Yoke making from log to yoke and all steps in between. Topics covered will include sizing the yoke, wood selection, and hardware.

22) The Walking Plow *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TILLAGE AREA

Sam Rich: 2007 National Walking Plow Champion.

Samuel White: Lifetime farmer. Grew up with, and later returned to, horse-power.

We will demonstrate the use of the walking plow and will teach you how to plow properly. We will talk about the range of considerations that will affect success with this most basic tillage tool.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 4-5:30 PM

44) Animal-Powered Forestry Tools & Techniques, part II *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - LOGGING AREA

Brad Johnson: Owns ALL Together Farm LLC, see www.alltogetherfarm.com.

Carl Russell: Forester, horse-logger, and small scale horse farmer, Bethel, Vermont.

Brian Patten: Has over 30 years experience working cattle in the woods.

John Plowden: Professional woodsman and equipment fabricator.

Part II continues the session begun on Friday at 2:00 PM. (See #16).

45) Developing a Working Partnership with Your Horse *Intermediate*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TRAINING AREA

Bekah Bailey and Neal Perry: From the Perry Farm offering horse boarding & training, & sleighrides, www.nealperryfarm.com.

What does a well developed partnership with a farm horse look like? How do you chart a course to move a green horse forward toward that end? Neal and Rebekah will demonstrate the "finished product" as well as how a young horse is brought along. This workshop is offered twice: Friday at 4:00 PM and Saturday at 8:00 AM.

46) Horse Drawn Mower Repair *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TRACTOR BARN

Donn Hewes: Farms with horses and mules in Central New York.



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Jay Bailey: Teaches draft horse workshops and rebuilds/sells horse-drawn mowers.

Learn to make your mower sing like a singer, and help your horses mow like champs. We will discuss everything from cutter bars to bearings, bushings and seals. How to identify mowers to rebuild and where to find parts, will also be discussed.

47) Primary Tillage with the Sulky Plow *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TILLAGE AREA

Sam Rich: 2007 National Walking Plow Champion.

Samuel White: Lifetime farmer. Grew up with, and later returned to, horse-power.

We will demonstrate the use of the riding, or sulky, plow and will teach you how to plow properly. We will talk about the range of considerations that will affect success with this most common tillage tool.

48) Timber Harvest & Restorative Forest Management *All levels*

Campus Center 917

Guy Dunkle: Manages forestland in Northwest Pennsylvania and Southwest New York.

We will primarily discuss selecting trees for harvest and using animal-power for their removal. Additionally we will look at regenerating forests, restoring abused woodlots and controlling undesirable plants.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 8-9:30 AM

74) Animal-Power for Secondary Tillage, part I *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TILLAGE AREA

Kenneth Mulder: Farm Manager and Research Associate at Green Mountain College.

Michael Glos: Diverse organic vegetable and livestock farmer for past 15 years.

The use of oxen and draft ponies for use in secondary tillage will be demonstrated. We will discuss and compare the features of draft ponies and oxen and a variety of tillage tools for small and medium scale production. (For part II, see #224).

75) Animal-Powered Forestry Tools & Techniques, part I *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - LOGGING AREA

Brad Johnson: Owns ALL Together Farm LLC, see www.alltogetherfarm.com.

Carl Russell: Forester, horse-logger, and small scale horse farmer, Bethel, Vermont.

Brian Patten: Has over 30 years experience working cattle in the woods.

John Plowden: Professional woodsman and equipment fabricator.

In this two-session workshop, offered on Friday afternoon and repeated Saturday morning, we will hold a logging demonstration featuring several teamsters at work with their animals. A single horse, an ox team, and a horse team will work with an innovative single-horse log arch, ground skidding, a team log arch, and a scoot for log transport. (For part II, see #107).

76) Developing a Working Partnership With Your Horse *Intermediate*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TRAINING AREA

Bekah Bailey and Neal Perry: From the Perry Farm offering horse boarding & training, & sleighrides,

www.nealperryfarm.com.



What does a well developed partnership with a farm horse look like? How do you chart a course to move a green horse forward toward that end? Neal and Rebekah will demonstrate the “finished product” as well as how a young horse is brought along. This workshop is offered twice: Friday at 4:00 PM and Saturday at 8:00 AM.

77) Farm Horse Health: Dentistry & Nutrition *Beginner*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - FREESTALL BARN - EAST END

John Perdrizet: Veterinarian, board certified internal medicine, PhD, acupuncturist, herbologist, food therapist.

I will demonstrate an equine oral exam, discussing routine dental health and procedures used in dentistry. I will also discuss basic on-the-farm nutrition for working horses.

78) Modern Ox Yoke Bow Making *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TRACTOR BARN

Bucky Cole: Bucky has owned, trained, and shod oxen for 35+ years

In this workshop I will teach you how to steam bend bow strips, laminate, and finish an ox bow.

79) Rigging the Hitch: Singles through Six Mule Hitch *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - HAY BARN YARD

Pat Bacon: Drives and does small-scale tillage with her mules.

Robert Crichton: Teacher and president, Maine and New Hampshire Draft Horse Clubs.

We will cover safety and practical details of hitching mules (or any equine) for work. We will start with a single mule and work our way up through teams, three and four mule hitches, up to rigging a six mule hitch.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 10-11:30 AM

107) Animal-Powered Forestry Tools & Techniques, part II *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - LOGGING AREA

Brad Johnson: Owns ALL Together Farm LLC, see www.alltogetherfarm.com.

Carl Russell: Forester, horse-logger, and small scale horse farmer, Bethel, Vermont.

Brian Patten: Has over 30 years experience working cattle in the woods.

John Plowden: Professional woodsman and equipment fabricator.

Part II continues the session begun on Saturday at 8:00 AM. (See #75).

108) Barefoot Working Horse Care & Maintenance *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - FREESTALL BARN - EAST END

Randall Heminger: 1st Cav Div Farrier, AFA Certified Farrier, 10 years Exp.

The participants will get an overview of proper trimming and identifying deviations and exterior influences on the hoof capsule.

109) Cultivation Innovations *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TILLAGE AREA

Jake Blank: Owner of I & J Manufacturing, specializing in horse-drawn and tractor equipment.

Michael Glos: Diverse organic vegetable and livestock farmer for past 15 years.

Stephen Leslie: Co-owner of Cedar Mountain Farm CSA and 20 cow dairy.

We will be demonstrating multifaceted cultivation tools for the purpose of weed control, hilling, sidedress fertilization, and more. Come take a look at some of the latest design innovations in horse-drawn cultivators.

110) Ground-Drive Haying Equipment *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - HAYFIELD

Sam Rich: 2007 National Walking Plow Champion.

Robert Crichton: Teacher and president, Maine and New Hampshire Draft Horse Clubs.

In this workshop we will demonstrate and discuss a variety of ground drive technology including hay tedders and rakes. We will also demonstrate the use of a non-motorized, ground-drive PTO forecart for use with modern PTO haying equipment.

111) Selecting, Raising, & Training Calves *All levels*



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UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TRAINING AREA

Jacob Bowen: I have raised and trained calves for 4H programs.

Ray Ludwig: Ray has trained working cattle for over 50 years.

We will show what to look for in buying a pair of calves for work. I will talk about the care and raising of young oxen, and I will demonstrate the training process of getting calves started in work.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1-2:30 PM

140) Adjusting, Positioning & Hitching D-Ring Harnesses *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - HAY BARN YARD

Les Barden: Work-horse advocate, logger, farmer.

We'll discuss and demonstrate the exacting fit and function of the D-ring harness. Incidental to appreciating the essence of this (forgiving) horse-saver, the concepts of comfort, safety, and dignity of both driver and horse shall be emphasized.

141) Animal-Powered Hay Harvest *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - HAYFIELD

Kenneth Mulder: Farm Manager and Research Associate at Green Mountain College.

Pat Bacon: Drives and does small-scale tillage with her mules.

Robert Crichton: Teacher and president, Maine and New Hampshire Draft Horse Club.

Donn Hewes: Farms with horses and mules in Central New York.

This workshop will feature a variety of animals and tools. Oxen, mules, and horses will use a loose hay loader, a motorized forecart with a PTO baler, and a bale wagon to complete the hay harvest. This is a great opportunity to discuss a variety of animal-power technologies.

142) Getting started with Draft Horses: Harnessing and Driving *Beginner*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TRAINING AREA

Jennifer Judkins: Runs a small, organic, diversified farm in Springfield, NH.

In this workshop, Reno – my Percheron – and I will familiarize participants with basic care and harnessing of the workhorse as it relates to driving, then we'll address driving skills, using simulations and hands-on instruction. This workshop is offered twice: Friday at 2:00 PM and Saturday at 1:00 PM.

143) Oxen Hoof Trimming and Shoeing *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - FREESTALL BARN - EAST END

Bucky Cole: Bucky has owned, trained, and shod oxen for 35+ years

In this workshop I will orient you to an array of ox hoof trimming tools. I will show you how to trim for hoof care and in preparation for shoeing. I will show you what size nail to use and how to nail on shoes.

145) Working the Single Horse *All levels*

UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TILLAGE AREA

Michael Glos: Diverse organic vegetable and livestock farmer for past 15 years.

I will describe and demonstrate how we use a single horse for many tasks on our diverse farm including work in the woods, pasture and crop fields. I will also share ideas on running a farm with just a single horse and in



conjunction with a team or tractors.

145A) Training Oxen to Work *All levels*
UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TRAINING AREA

Ray Ludwig: Ray has trained working cattle for over 50 years.

Using a team of oxen, I will demonstrate and discuss my training process.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 8-9:30 AM

169) Animal-Powered Community Grains *All levels*

Campus Center 911-15

Erik Andrus: Farms with horses and bakes bread in the Champlain Valley.

Ben Lester: Runs Wheatberry Farm and Bakery and The Pioneer Valley Heritage Grain CSA.

Farmers Erik Andrus and Ben Lester will share their experience integrating draft animals with local community grain models. We will explore the “why” and the “how” questions of using living horsepower to bring “staff of life” crops to the table.

170) Cooperative Animal-Powered Timber Harvest *All levels*

Campus Center 905-09

Ben Canonica: Ben farms and logs with horses in central VT.

In 2010 a group of loggers collaborated on a job where they each brought resources to share. Ben will cover the specifics of how the job worked out, forestry objectives, and marketing. He will also lead a discussion of how this model may help to promote animal-powered timber harvesting.

171) TOUR: Natural Roots Farm: Horse Powered CSA, part I *Intermediate*
TOUR

David Fisher: Runs 220 member horsepowered CSA; farming for 15 years.

Daniel Berry: Has farmed with horses for two years.

Lily Carone: An apprentice at natural roots focused on diversifying power sources.

Tom Coughlin: Has been farming with horses at Natural Roots since 2005.

We will give a tour of Natural Roots farm. We rely exclusively on horsepower to run a 220 member CSA and to harvest hay and timber. We'll use live horsepower demonstrations on a variety of traditional and innovative implements to illustrate our vegetable production systems. Opportunity for lots of discussion. DIRECTIONS (by car): Leave the UMass campus and get on Rt. 116N. Follow 116 through Sunderland, and Deerfield, to Conway. Pass the Conway Inn, then fork right towards Shelburne Falls. Take the immediate right onto Shelburne Falls Rd. Drive 1.7 miles and see Natural Roots on the right hand side. TOTAL DRIVING TIME FROM UMass - 30 MINUTES. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY! ADDRESS: 888 Shelburne Falls Rd, Conway, MA 01341. BUS SERVICE PROVIDED. (For part II, see #195).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 10-11:30 AM

193) Animal-Power Equipment Innovation on Small Dairy *Intermediate*

Campus Center 905-09

Mark Fellows: I have managed a 25 cow mixed power dairy for 30 years.

I will show and discuss the work I accomplish and the equipment I use with horse, cow, and people-power. I will also share my ideas for future animal use. Discussion will follow.

194) Overview of Draft Implements & Vehicles **BF Track** *Beginner*

Campus Center 911-15

Erik Andrus: Farms with horses and bakes bread in the Champlain Valley.

This workshop will provide a visual introduction to the world of animal-powered farming technology with a focus on contemporary Northeastern farms. We will learn about the many tasks performed with living horsepower, on farm and off, in the region and elsewhere.



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195) TOUR: Natural Roots Farm: Horse Powered CSA, part II *Intermediate*
TOUR

David Fisher: Runs 220 member horsepowered CSA; farming for 15 years.

Daniel Berry: Has farmed with horses for two years.

Lily Carone: An apprentice at natural roots focused on diversifying power sources.

Tom Coughlin: Has been farming with horses at Natural Roots since 2005.

Part II continues the session begun on Sunday at 8:00 AM. (See #171). In part II, we will continue to demonstrate traditional and innovated horse drawn equipment in our produce operation. We will also continue to discuss all aspects of running our farm with horse power. DIRECTIONS (by car): Leave the UMass campus and get on Rt. 116N. Follow 116 through Sunderland, and Deerfield, to Conway. Pass the Conway Inn, then fork right towards Shelburne Falls. Take the immediate right onto Shelburne Falls Rd. Drive 1.7 miles and see Natural Roots on the right hand side. TOTAL DRIVING TIME FROM UMass - 30 MINUTES. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY! ADDRESS: 888 Shelburne Falls Rd, Conway, MA 01341. BUS SERVICE PROVIDED.

196) TOUR: Simple Gifts Farm: Working Oxen on a Vegetable Farm *Beginner*
TOUR

David Tepfer: Co-owner of Simple Gifts Farm.

We'll show our progress in training young oxen and finding uses for them on our 15 acres of organic vegetables. We'll demonstrate cart work, seeding cover crops, light cultivation, & both a single and double yoke. We'll discuss basic training, animal care, "fringe benefits", & the economics of using oxen on a tractor-operated farm. DIRECTIONS: Drive north from the campus on North Pleasant St., which is the road by the pond and student center. Simple Gifts Farm will be on the right in less than a mile. Look for the big sign. ADDRESS: 1089 N. Pleasant St, Amherst, MA. ARRANGE CARPOOLS, USING THE "TOUR RIDE BOARD" PLACED AT THE REGISTRATION TENT.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1-2:30 PM

224) Animal-Power for Secondary Tillage, part II *All levels*
UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TILLAGE AREA

Pat Bacon: Drives and does small-scale tillage with her mules.

Kenneth Mulder: Farm Manager and Research Associate at Green Mountain College.

Part II continues the session begun on Saturday at 8:00 AM. (See #74). In part II, the use of oxen and a 6-mule hitch for use in secondary tillage will be demonstrated. We will discuss and compare the features of mules and oxen and a variety of tillage tools for both small and larger scale operations.

225) No Pressure Driving: The Calm and Relaxed Horse *All levels*
UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TRAINING AREA

Donn Hewes: Farms with horses and mules in Central New York.

Many horses are pulling hard on the bit while pushing with the harness. We will demonstrate steps to train a horse to work and drive free of this unwanted pressure.

226) Precision Plow Adjustment *Intermediate*
UMASS RESEARCH FARM - TRACTOR BARN



Sam Rich: 2007 National Walking Plow Champion.

In this workshop we will look at plows in the workshop, without horses, where we can inspect the plow and make adjustments to affect it's performance. The principles discussed are universal to any moldboard plow.

CHILDREN AND TEEN ANIMAL-POWER WORKSHOPS

Below are highlights from the Teen and Children Conference workshops that feature animal-power topics. For a full listing of the Teen and Children workshops, see

http://www.nofasummerconference.org/pdfs/2011_Workshop_Descriptions.pdf

CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE – FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 4-5:30 PM

49) Calf Training
Cape Cod Lounge
Ages 5-12

Jim Austin: 12 years old, enjoys woodworking and working with livestock.

Katherine Austin: Mother, leader of 4H Horse Club and riding lesson instructor.

Mike Austin: Beef, dairy, and hay farmer, and livestock dealer.

Learn how to select a well-matched pair and how to start training them. We will outline goals to work towards and discuss the behavioral traits of a well-trained calf.

TEEN CONFERENCE – FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 4-5:30 PM

53) Harnessing and Driving Miss Daisy
Grad Lounge

Megan Johnson: Operates Buttercup Farm and Holy Cow Cheese Company.

Driving Miss Daisy is a Jersey cow who has been trained to drive a Meadowbrook Cart. Participants will learn how to harness their own cow and truly create a dual-purpose animal. Megan will entertain questions and discussion topics about working dairy cattle.

TEEN CONFERENCE – FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 4-5:30 PM

53) Harnessing and Driving Miss Daisy
Grad Lounge

Megan Johnson: Operates Buttercup Farm and Holy Cow Cheese Company.

Driving Miss Daisy is a Jersey cow who has been trained to drive a Meadowbrook Cart. Participants will learn how to harness their own cow and truly create a dual-purpose animal. Megan will entertain questions and discussion topics about working dairy cattle.

TEEN CONFERENCE – SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 10-11:30 AM

117) Using Mini Horses on the Farm
Grad Lounge

Jean Cross: Small acreage farmer using mini horses and a pony mule.

Julie Nichols: Lifelong experience with horses. Recent convert to minis.

Mini horses are not just cute, they can be a useful animal on the farm. We will show how they are cared for, and what they can do to help around the farm. We will move hay, shavings and fire wood. Participants will have a chance for hands-on experience.

CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE – SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 8-9:30 AM

82) Mini Draft Horse Power for Kids
Cape Cod Lounge
Ages 5-12

Jean Cross: Small acreage farmer using mini horses and a pony mule.



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Julie Nichols: Lifelong experience with horses. Recent convert to minis.
Our mini horses will show how children can help around the farm. We will talk about harnessing safely, ground driving a team and hooking to a mid-sized stoneboat to move some hay, shavings, and firewood. Participants will harness the team and hold the lines while they pull a small load.

