

Connecting animal-powered farms, forests, people & ideas.

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Draft Animal-Power Field Days

September 28 & 29

An exciting event is in the works, but we need your help! Volunteers, exhibitors, vendors & sponsors are needed in order to make it a great event. Contact Rebekah Perry for more info: dapnetinfo@gmail.com 802-763-0771

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Sam Rich Plow Clinic Overview

Held April 19 - 21 at Sam Rich's farm in Abington, CT, the weekend was a rousing success. Check our upcoming summer issue for a complete review of the event but we couldn't resist teasing you with some tidbits:

Jay Bailey said "It was so valuable - I have enough experience that I could really put Sam's advice to work. It was a fantastic learning opportunity. It is so important for all of us to keep learning and sharing our knowledge and experience with each other.

I learned how to open a field: plow one furrow, then turn the second into the first furrow. For the third furrow, the horse walks on the ground plowed by the first run putting the third furrow on top of the first two. This is challenging for the horse because they have to switch from walking on sod to walking in the furrow.

I used the bridle adjustment on the plow to change where the plow is pulling in relation to where the horses are walking. This adjustment is horizontal but also can be vertical, adjusting the depth of the furrow.

In closing the section being plowed the clevis is again moved on the bridle to change the depth. The first two of the last three furrows are plowed shallow, the last furrow is a bit deeper so the plow has ground to push against to keep the furrow true.

And the food! Don't forget to mention the food - it was fantastic!"

Shelly Hendlar said: "I enjoyed watching the way that he [Jay] worked with the horses; he was making it look easy. But he didn't fool me; there is nothing easy about it until you put in a lot of time and effort.

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"AND THE
FOOD... IT WAS
FANTASTIC!"

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Training Horses for Work: Tale of Two Morgans, by Neal Perry

On April 5th, 2013 I had to put down the best horse I've ever worked with. Chadwick's Benjamin was a Morgan Stallion that I acquired when he was a yearling in 1998 and spent the next 15 years developing our partnership doing farm work, logging, training other horses, doing demonstrations and competing as a high level performance horse. We're not sure how but on April 3rd he broke his right stifle joint and there was no realistic prognosis for his recovery. So with a heavy heart I laid him to rest.

The whole situation has given me cause for reflection on him and other horses that have served me well over the years. Ben was outstanding in harness. At just 15 hands and barely 900 lbs he was just a little horse, yet with strong hind-leg conformation and a heart that gave everything he had to each and every task, he moved mind-boggling loads. On one occasion he was hooked to a small sleigh onto which piled 8 people, plus the driver. These were not all small people, mind you! We figured out that the people in the sleigh weighed more than he did, yet he pulled cheerfully up hills and down, never once asking to stop and catch his breath.

He was the best logging horse I have ever trained. One thing that made him so good was his desire to stand. "Whoa" was his favourite word....

WHEN I
STARTED THE
SAW HE WOULD
DROP HIS HEAD
AND TAKE A
NAP.

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The Draft Horse Connection

Canada's quarterly magazine since 1995 is dedicated to giving voice to the living tradition of Canadian horse farming and logging. Enjoy teamster interviews, equipment, health care, find workshops and mentors, share your stories and join our family.

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Sam Rich Plow Clinic Overview

Continued from pg 1

Erika was also a joy to watch with her oxen. They are obviously well trained and she has a relaxed and easy way with them that also seems to suggest long hours well spent in training and working together with them. I enjoyed meeting Sue and Dale also. They were both working with teams of Percherons. I had some time to speak with them during the lunch break and they both said that they were learning a lot.

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Lincoln Woods Salvage Project: Success!

On a cold day in January a corner of the White Mountain National Forest that is a designated wilderness area (no motorized vehicles allowed) swarmed with activity. The problem: steel I beams from an old bridge needed to be removed from a remote part of the forest. The solution: two teams of draft horses and a hearty volunteer crew. Over the course of two days the old bridge pieces were skidded down to a landing where they could be loaded on to trucks. The project was completed on

time and under budget, leaving the Forest Service contemplating how they can use draft animals again in future projects. DAPNet board member Ed Thayer masterminded the project with the help of teamsters Brad Johnson & John Plowden and a whole host of volunteers who assured that the project went smoothly. Thanks to everyone who was involved - we'll be in touch when the next project is proposed!

Log-scoot Raffle: Back by Popular Demand

Would you like to win a Les Barden style log scooter? The Farm School in Athol, MA has donated the lumber and Berrybrook Ox Supply has donated the hardware, Ed Thayer will put it together and you could win! The drawing will be held at the Draft Animal-Power Field Days in September and you do not need to be present to win. Tickets will be sold online starting July 1 through www.rafflemate.com, all proceeds go to support DAPNet activities. Tickets are just \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Tickets may also be purchased at the Field Days or directly from DAPNet. Send

your check to us at: 509 Dutton Brook Lane, Brownington, VT, 05860



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Doc Hammill learning opportunities in VT

You have read articles from veterinarian and teamster Doc Hammill and you've always wanted to attend one of his workshops, but Montana is a long ways away. Doc will be in Vermont this year for several unique learning opportunities, so if Vermont is closer to you than Montana - well, we'll see you there!

Instructor Workshop: Teaching Teamster Skills

This Workhorse Workshop is specifically designed for people who teach teamster skills to other people, including interns, friends, paying clients or others. This one day workshop will be held on **Friday, September 27** in Barton, Vermont and will include demonstrations, hands-on exercises and lectures. If you are currently or would like to consider teaching others to drive, this invaluable workshop is for you!

The Nature & Mind of the Horse: Doc Hammill Presentation

On Friday afternoon, **September 27** Doc will present a lecture on the nature and mind of the horse, how horses perceive, react and learn, and their silent



body language and herd dynamics. When we understand these things we able to communicate and interact with horses in more psychologically and scientifically appropriate ways that they can inherently understand and willingly respond to. This presentation will fascinate anyone who works regularly with horses, donkeys or mules in any discipline or work endeavour. This presentation will kick off the DAP Field Days in Barton, Vermont starting at 3 pm.

Doc Hammill to be Featured Presenter at DAPField Days....

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Log On!

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www.drafhorsejournal.com

Tale of Two Morgans

Continued from pg 2

In the log yard, I would leave him standing with the single tree and chain ready, cut some logs to length then call him over to hitch him up. Then we'd move logs to the appropriate pile, I'd start up the chain saw to cut some more and he would take a nap. I have mostly worked alone in the woods so all my horses learn that when the saw is running it's time for them to take a break. Ben had learned this so well that when he heard the saw start he would drop his head and totally relax. Ben came to me at a time in my life when I was more interested in horse training than logging. So the amount of attention given to how he worked was greater than the goal of harvested board feet.

Another horse near and dear to me was a larger



Morgan gelding I raised in the early 1990's named "Hardway Dasher". Dasher was a strapping 16 hands and 1200 lbs, wide and deep and as solid as they come. At the time I trained Dasher I was milking cows three time per day. I had great demands upon myself for production and the expected pace of my horses was much higher. The result was a horse that rarely shut down and relaxed. He was always ready and when I just thought command to walk off, he was in motion. This was great as long as I could keep up with his ambition! Some horses with these tendencies work down after a few hours, Dasher worked up. He was always willing and could pull more than any horse his size should have. If I had a big job to do he was my "go to" horse. I used him in many teams and multiple horse hitches and he was always the leader, keeping everything moving smoothly. When asked to stand

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he would do so very willingly, but his body was tight, his head up, listening for his favourite word "Team", my command to walk on. When hitched to heavy loads he would bear down, take short strides and pull. When hooked to a light cart he would relax and walk along quietly. I sold him at the age of seventeen to a couple who needed a steady cart horse where he's performing wonderfully.

Both of these horse were very special to me and accomplished great amounts of work on my farm. Working with horses to do farm work builds a relationship with horses that goes beyond the average trail or pet horse.... If I had to choose one to work with day in and day continued on page 8

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- Sue Mahany, Rural Vermont member, Burlington



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Doc Hammill in VT

Continued from pg 4

Doc will be the featured presenter at the Draft Animal-Powered Field Days on **September 28 & 29** at the Orleans County Fairgrounds in Barton, VT. Doc will present a series of training demonstrations with a young horse and will also offer insights about buying a well-broke team and improving older horses. He will be presenting throughout the weekend. Saturday evening will feature Doc reading cowboy poetry.

Doc Hammill Work Horse Workshop in VT: The Perry Family Farm in Brownington, VT will be the location of a Doc Hammill Workhorse Workshop from **October 3 - 6**, just a week after the Field Days. This workshop will be similar to those offered at Doc's Montana ranch in content and style. Doc & Cathy will be joined by veteran instructors Jay Bailey, Neal & Rebekah Perry and others for 4 days of intensive, hands-on learning. This workshop promises to send you home with new skills, insights and a more comprehensive understanding of harnessing, hitching and driving horses in harness. Doc's thorough style is sure to send you home with



lots of new information and deeper understanding no matter what your level of experience is. Workshop content will be tailored to the needs and interests of students. This workshop is limited to 4 students per instructor and will be filled on a first come-first served basis. Contact DAPNet or Doc Hammill for more information on the web: www.dochammill.com or www.draftanimalpower.com or call.

This workshop will offer the unique opportunity to bring your team. Horses will receive a comprehensive evaluation and tune-up and will be used in the workshop as appropriate and feasible. Teamster and horse trainer Neal Perry will work with each horse to evaluate your horses' experience, give them a "tune-up" or work through specific issues. This option is suitable for young horses as well as those with more experience or who have known issues. Space for horses is limited and will be come on a "first come-first serve" basis.

So whatever your level of experience with horses, Doc has something for you! This variety of educational opportunities has something for everyone: teamsters and riders, farmers and horse-loggers and those who want to deepen their relationship with their horse for weekend pleasure rides & drives. DAPNet presents this unique opportunity with excitement and enthusiasm - we hope you will join us!

For more information or to register for the Instructor Workshop or the Work Horse Workshop please contact Doc directly at dochammill.com. For questions about the Draft Animal-Power Field Days contact Rebekah Perry at 802-763-0771 or dapnetinfo@gmail.com

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DAPNet Membership Information:

The goal of this organization is to highlight ongoing efforts of people throughout the region who are educating, mentoring and building community around animal-power and renewable land use by hosting, sponsoring and supporting a variety of educational and networking opportunities.

To meet these objectives, we provide a variety of services to our community including our website & forum, quarterly newsletters, free e-newsletters and educational events that vary from year to year. Your support allows these valuable services to continue.

New Membership Level for 2013:

Do you find value in the services that DAPNet offers? Do we provide resources that support your efforts, broadens your draft animal connections and brings you new neighbours to call on when you need words of advice, encouragement or insight? Can you put a number on that value?

Membership is now available for a donation of any amount (minimum \$1), though we hope that you will consider giving more in support of our growing organization and the broad scope of our activities. Your membership can be paid online or feel free to send a check to our administrator at the address below.

DAPNet Mission: Advancing the use of draft animals and promoting sustainable land stewardship by providing resource connections and shared learning opportunities while building community.



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Benefits of DAPNet membership include:

- The knowledge that you are supporting growth of the practical application of draft animal-power.
- Access to the online forum including viewing photos & posting to the forum.
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- Enhanced connections within the broader community of interest.
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Yes! I'd like to join DAPNet:

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Tale of Two Morgans

Continued from pg 5

out, it would be Ben. Having a horse to work with that is relaxed will make your work more relaxing (not to mention safer!). For me working with animals that match me heart beat for heart beat and foot beat for foot beat is far more rewarding than measuring work by RPM's. As good as Dasher was he reminded me more of a machine than a horse. Together we moved a lot of wood but in the end no more than I moved with Ben.

When Ben was a young horse I would bring him to the woods while I was felling trees and cutting firewood. He was not asked to work until he was two and even then I might have him pull a small log or I might just let him stand in his harness all morning tied to a tree. I never expected him to pull very much until he was four and even then it was minimal unless he was teamed with another horse. Dasher on the other hand spent the winter he was coming three pulling cedar. Even though it was fairly light wood I did have him move a lot of it. I surely never took him to the wood lot to just hang out! I hope you can see from this story that how we

use our horses at a young age can shape the pace of their career. I believe it is much easier to teach a relaxed work pace to a young horse that will make going to work safe and enjoyable for everyone.

I currently have a yearling son of Ben's who happens to be a 1/2 brother to Dasher. His name is Willoughby Bonum. Last week he spent a morning hooked next to our Belgians as we cut and gathered fence posts and another helping spread manure. Perhaps he'll be somewhere in between his dad and big brother. It is good to remember that my best horse might just be the one God has blessed me with right now.

"It is good to remember that my best horse might just be the one God has blessed me with right now."

--Neal Perry farms with Morgan & Belgian horses in Brownington, VT. He is a long time horse trainer and NEAPFD presenter.

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Horse Progress Days 2013 Arcola, Illinois

Horse Progress Days™



Thank you to all who attended the 2012 Horse Progress Days in Clare, Michigan. A special thank you to all the communities involved in planning a great event. And thank you to Alvin Yoder and his family for hosting us on their farm.



It's not too soon to start making plans to attend our 20th Annual event in Arcola, Illinois • July 5th & 6th, 2013. See animal power working in step with the latest innovations and modern equipment. Other features include: field demonstrations, produce equipment, educational seminars, and much more. Horse Progress Days has something for everyone. For more information visit our website: www.horseprogressdays.com

Be a part of the 20th Annual Horse Progress Days in Arcola, Illinois. If you would like to advertise in our information guide, on our website, or be a sponsor of Horse Progress Days 2013. Contact Dale Stoltzfus, National Advertising Coordinator by October 1st, 2012

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2013 Will Be Our 20th Annual Event

The 2013 Horse Progress Days Event will be held on the Vernon J. Yoder Farm • 2 miles North & 2-1/2 miles West of Arcola, Illinois.



Draft Animal-Power Field Days, Sept 28 & 29:

DAPNet is excited to announce this year's Draft Animal-Power Field Days to be held at the Orleans County Fair Grounds, located directly off I-91, exit 25 in Vermont. Draft Animal-Power Field Days, formerly known as Northeast Animal-Power Field Days, has been held since 2007 in both Tunbridge, VT and Amherst, MA; and has attracted hundreds of spectators and participants to each event. Select, experienced teamsters and drovers bring their horses, oxen and mules to demonstrate both basic and advanced animal power applications. Come to learn more about working with draft animals or just come to watch them in action!

Doc Hammill will be the featured presenter (see article on page 4). We will also have a strong set of workshops focused on training and working steers, yoke selection & fit, working a single ox and more. There will be an area dedicated to demonstrating and discussing the use of draft animal-power in the market garden. Other sessions will address animal management, health and wellness. We'll have some technical discussions around pricing logging jobs, selecting an appropriate animal or team and other relevant topics.

There will be field demos including haying and plowing with draft animals and moving logs in the yard. The weekend will be filled with opportunities to ask questions, get answers, join discussions and see equipment up close, in use, and for sale. Listen in and ask questions at round-table discussions on many topics.

Make your travel plans soon as there will be many leaf peepers in town as well! You can find information about lodging in the area at travelthekingdom.com. Camping and RV hookups are available at the fairgrounds. With many covered spaces, even if the weather is hot or wet, there will still be plenty to see and do under cover. There will also be a large vendor area with relevant books, periodicals, equipment, information and more. **For more information, ticket prices, directions, sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, please visit <http://draftanimalpower.com/dap-field-days>.** Please note that draft animals are allowed by invitation or pre-arrangement only. Contact Teamster Coordinator, Jen Judkins at jenjudkins930@gmail.com for more information.

Events Calendar:

June 14th & 15th Mowing With Horses,
Fair Winds Farm, Brattleboro, VT
Workshop covering the basics of mower tune-up & maintenance on Friday, Mowing on Saturday. No driving skills taught. For more details:
www.fairwindsfarm.org or 802-254-9067

June 15 & 16: HAY DAYS, Rupert Vermont
"Demonstrating Draft Power in the Working Landscape"
(10am-4pm) This two-day farm festival is a collaboration between Merck Forest and Farmland Center (MFFC) and Green Mountain Draft Horse Association (GMDHA). GMDHA Members will demonstrate how horses can be used for plowing, tilling, raking, tedding, and more. Much of the work will be based on the haying season. This event is open to everyone interested in learning about draft power for farming. Topical children's activities available. Rain date: June 22 & 23. Free.

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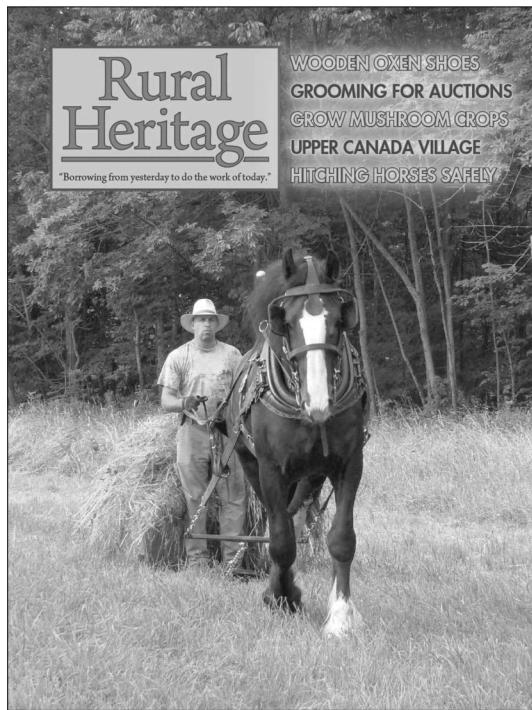


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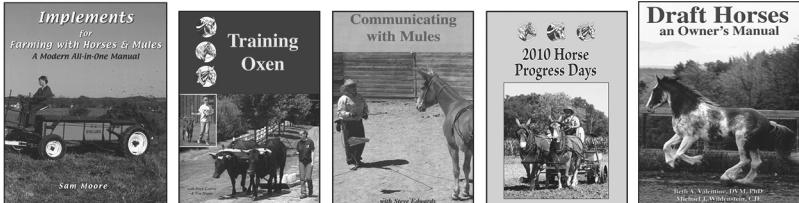
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Check us out at www.ruralheritage.com



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Events Calendar:

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June 21-23: Ox Power from Stump to Yoke, MODA Gathering
Tillers International, Scots, MI
Draft Animals in the Woodlot: This educational event will cover a great variety of subjects and skills applicable to using oxen/draft animals in the woods. For more info or to sign up please visit www.midwestoxdrovers.com

June 29th Loose Hay Field Day,
3833 Freetown Cross Rd, Marathon, NY
9am to 4pm, Demonstration based workshop, pre-registration required. Rain date: July 13th Email register@nofany.org, call 585-271-1979 ext. 509 or on line at www.nofany.org/events/field-days

July 4-6th Horse Progress Days,
Arcola, IL
The showcase event for newly manufactured and modified horse drawn equipment featuring field demonstrations, educational seminars, a parade of breeds and something for everyone in the horse industry. For more information see: www.horseprogressdays.com

Volume 3, Number 2

July 26th-28th Low Impact Forestry
Level II Draft Animal Logging, Bethel, ME
Prerequisite: LIF's Level I course, or equivalent experience. Course utilizes a production-like scenario to learn & apply skills. Registration information and details: www.mofgastore.org or call (207) 568-4142

Saturdays, August 10th, 24th, September 7th, 21st:
Draft Horse Workshop,
Fair Winds Farm, Brattleboro, VT
Covers the basics of harnessing, hitching & driving a team & single on two & 4 wheeled vehicles. See our website for more details: www.fairwindsfarm.org or 802-254-9067

August 3 & 4: Oxen Basics for Teamster & Team
Sanborn Mills Farm, Loudon, NH
Two day workshop will cover basics from selecting a team to training to equipment basics to logging with oxen. For more information see www.sanbornmills.org or 603-568-7388

August 9 – Sunday, August 11th NOFA-MA
Summer Conference, Amherst, MA:
www.nofasummerconference.org

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Lincoln Woods Salvage Project

Doc Hammill Workshops in VT

Tale of Two Morgans

Sam Rich Plow Clinic Overview

Highlights:

Brownington, VT 05860

509 Dutton Brook Lane

Draft Animal-Power Network

Events Calendar:

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Sept 21: Logging with a Single Horse
Sanborn Mills Farm, Loudon, NH

Skills and techniques specific to working in the woods with a single horse. For more information see www.sanbornmills.org or 603-568-7388

September 27: Doc Hammill Instructor Workshop:
Teaching Teamster Skills, Barton, VT

For anyone teaching teamster skills to others. Info: www.dochammill.com or call 406-250-8252

Saturday & Sunday, September 28 & 29:
Draft Animal-Power Field Days, Barton, VT
Two days of workshops, presentations, equipment demonstrations, training demos and more! Info at www.draftanimalpower.com , email dapnetinfo@gmail.com or call 802-763-0771

October 3-6: Doc Hammill Work Horse Workshop - Perry Farm, Brownington, VT
No matter what your skill level is, you'll learn a lot from Doc Hammill and guest teachers. Hands-on &

auditor options available. Visit Doc's site for more info: www.dochammill.com

October 14: Informational Tour at Nordells Horse-Powered Market Garden
Beech Grove Farm, Trout Run, PA,
This is an opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about their bio-extensive system to walk the vegetable fields, check out the horsedrawn equipment and ask questions. Pre-registration is required, send a letter of interest to Anne & Eric by mid-September: 3410 Rt 184, Trout Run, PA 17771

October 22nd-25th: Draft Horse Workshop,
Fair Winds Farm, Brattleboro, VT
Covers the basics of harnessing, hitching & driving a team & single on two & 4 wheeled vehicles. Info: www.fairwindsfarm.org or 802-254-9067

October 26 & 27: Logging with Oxen
Sanborn Mills Farm, Loudon, NH
Two day workshop covers basics of logging with oxen including skills & techniques, different skid methods, etc. For more information see www.sanbornmills.org or 603-568-7388