

Draft Horses I & II

Our workshops focus on building your skills & confidence in harnessing, hitching, driving & horse management. We use a single horse and team for hands on experience and individual instruction. You will drive from the ground, on a wagon and a forecart. We cover the basics of safety, handling, foot care, feeding and horse health. We place a lot of emphasis on clear communication through effective use of the drivers hands and voice. Technical driving skill development is achieved with lots of time in the drivers' seat and one-on-one instruction. Put your hands on the harness to learn about different styles, correct adjustment & fit.

Draft Horses I develops a solid foundation of knowledge and experience.

Draft Horses II builds on this foundation to include more precise driving skills, a wider range of equipment and covering topics such as harness fit in more depth. Prerequisite DHI.

Technical Skills for Women will cover similar material to the Level I in a supportive, low pressure atmosphere. Learn to utilize your leverage and the relationship with the horse to maximize your results.

Working Partnerships

How do horses learn? How can we use their instincts and learning patterns to develop a willing, responsive partnership? Discuss these questions and apply practical solutions to prevent common issues and move your horse closer to your ideal. This workshop is applicable for those who work with horses of any age, bring your horse or use one of ours. Content and feedback are tailored to meet your needs. Some time is spent each day working one-on-one with you and your horse. This workshop is required for anyone seeking our horse training services.



Our vision is to provide ideas and examples of sustainable farming with horses in a setting and atmosphere that encourages anyone interested to get started with their own dreams.

Our values are to work a farm that is environmentally, economically, and personally sustainable. All parts of the farm compliment each other, recycling, supporting, nourishing, and energizing the others. Draft horses play a key role: they cause less soil compaction, grow their own replacements, do what is asked and then give you more when the chips are down.

Our passion is working with horses!



Mowing With Horses

Meets 2-5pm on Friday afternoon to discuss and make adjustments, sharpening and mower setup for several kinds of mowers in preparation for a full day of mowing. On Saturday we will cut a 3 acre field regardless of the weather. Saturday discussions will include technique and theory around opening up the field, preventing and dealing with mechanical issues, topography and plant species. Participants will be encouraged to drive the horses/mowers in situations that are appropriate to their experience level. This is not a driving workshop. Prerequisite DH I.

Putting up Loose Hay with Horses

Bring your questions about putting up loose hay and we'll try to get them answered. This workshop will cover equipment, strategies, techniques and theory in an accessible, hands-on format. This is not a driving workshop, but you will get a chance to try driving various tedders, rakes and the infamous hay loader. This workshop will start where the mowing workshop leaves off, working with hay that is on the ground and go through the whole process of putting it in the barn. We will work with whatever weather we have, and will not necessarily work with cured hay or with all processes in chronological order. Prerequisite DH I.

Introduction to Logging will give you basic skills needed to work safely in the woods with horses. This is NOT a driving workshop, but will teach skills related to skidding small logs and doing farm-scaled firewood and small log jobs. Prerequisite DHI.

- Limited class size and multiple instructors maximize hands-on learning.
- Hearty, homegrown & home cooked meals are included. Bring your appetite!
- Technical skill development through customized exercises with and without the horses
- Camping and hot showers are included, hotels are close by if you prefer.
- Spend 4 days on our working, family farm, help with chores and see how a horse-powered farm works from the inside.



Draft Horse Workshops
Topics & Descriptions

A diversified, horse-powered,
Vermont family farm.

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