

DAPNet

Draft Animal-Power Network

CONNECTING ANIMAL-POWERED FARMS, FORESTS, PEOPLE, AND IDEAS

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And More!

**DAPNET ANNUAL
GATHERING:
September 26-28
Cummington, MA
See you there!**

**Draft Animal-Power
Network Mission Statement:
Advancing the use of draft
animals & promoting
sustainable land stewardship
by providing resource
connections and shared
learning opportunities while
building community.**

Cultivating Workshop at Cedar Mountain Farm

by Moriah Bilenky

My name is Moriah Bilenky and I am attempting to start a completely draft animal-powered vegetable farm. It really all started when I was 10 but I won't go back that far; things really got moving after I graduated from college last May. My plan and dream has always been to start my own farm, grow my own food and be a good steward of the land but what does that really look like?

I was looking at some farming videos on YouTube one day and I stumbled across a video of a horse drawn transplanter featuring David Fisher of Natural Roots. I knew instantly that I would combine my two passions – horses and farming for the ultimate goal of having a sustainable and self-sufficient farm. As soon as that switch flipped I had a clear picture of what my farming operation would look like so I went about doing everything I could to get the necessary experience and knowledge.



It started with a trip to Natural Roots in Massachusetts where I saw up close for the first time a demonstration of horse drawn equipment. From there I bought Stephen Leslie's book 'The New Horse Powered Farm' and I carried around with me and poured over every word. Later that summer I found out

continued on page 3

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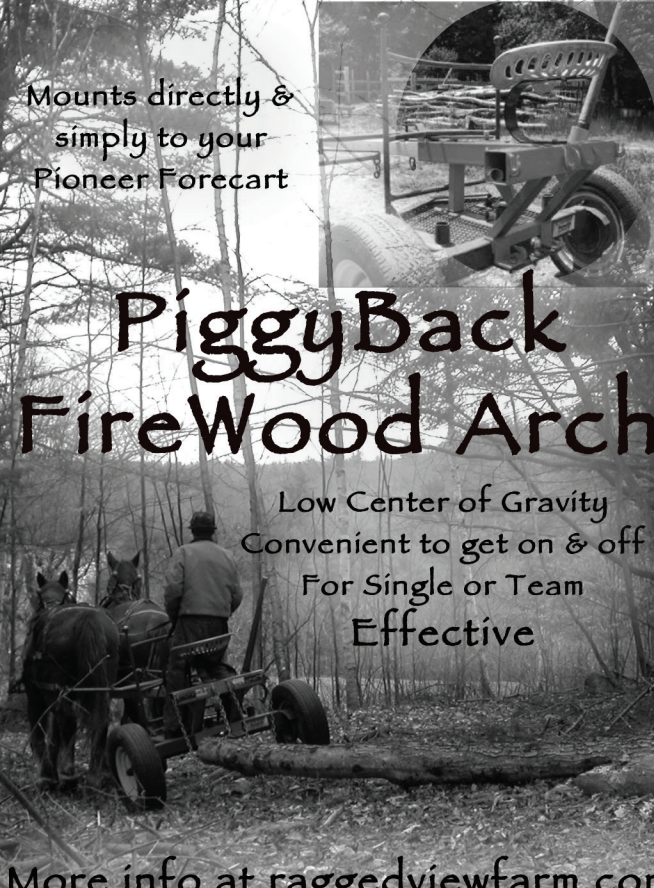
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Membership Form:

- 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.
 - Print Newsletter available by email or USPS (\$20 or more, \$30 for Canadian addresses)
 - Enhanced connections within the broader community of interest.
 - A voice in the organization: one member = one vote.

Yes! I'd like to join DAPNet or renew my membership:

- Basic \$20.00
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DAPNet Receives Final Approval for Non-Profit Status!

After countless months (close to 3 years), we finally received official confirmation of our Non-Profit Status this summer. The process was riddled with frustrations and bureaucratic headaches and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to former board members Jen Judkins and Mark Cowdrey for their work in getting the process going. Reva Seybolt picked up part way through and we are grateful to all three for their efforts in navigating the icy and murky waters of the IRS process.

As we move forward, we also wish to thank Rural Vermont for their willingness to serve as our fiscal sponsor through the application process. They have been a huge help to us and we appreciate both their vision and their experience. This is a big step in the development of DAPNet as an independent organization. We are moving forward!

Thank you, Rural Vermont.



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Cultivating Workshop, from page 1

about DAPNet and the Draft Animal-Power Field Days and I counted down the days until I would drive the 7 hours to Vermont. At the DAP Field Days I went to Stephen Leslie's talk about essential pieces of equipment, Jelmer Albada's cultivation tools and a hands-on mini lesson with Jay Bailey. That lesson was the first time I drove a team and the first time driving since I was 12. It was everything I imagined it would be!

From then on I was driven to find a mentor. I searched long and hard till I found a woman not too far from me with a pair of drafty Halfingers. She wasn't able to get them out as much as she wanted to so we were doing each other a favor. She taught me how to harness the horses and hitch them together. We drove them in the ring and on the road. I went up there as often as my schedule would allow.

I joined DAPNet and after I met my mentor I started getting involved with the DAPNet Facebook page. It was great to connect with like-minded people and surround myself with the wealth of knowledge that everyone brought to the table.

I was pleased to find out that DAPNet was offering a workshop on cultivating hosted by Stephen Leslie and I signed up right away. Finally! I would get to shake hands with and learn from the teamster that wrote the book that has been a great source for learning the basics as well as details on using horses in the market garden.

At the workshop I felt like I was with "my" people, an extended family even though we had just met - a great feeling for a person who is working toward starting my own animal-powered farm next season.



At Cedar Mountain Farm I was able to get a glimpse and information on many different types of tillage tools from a straddle-row cultivator to a walk-behind cultivator to the new Annie's All-In-One. It was great to see how Stephen modified each piece to fit his operation from different types of sweeps, to spacing, or even adapting a tool to become a multi-tool. Stephen gave demonstrations of each piece of equipment. Later many of the attendees got a hands-on mini lesson with the different types of equipment.

For me that was the first time using horse drawn till-

age tools. The hands-on aspect of the workshop was my main reason for attending (not having done an apprenticeship, I need all the hands-on experience I can get!) although the networking is valuable to me as well. Not only that, workshops on other draft-power farms allow me (and I'm sure others too) to pick up additional valuable information on how they run their operation, whether it be manure management, pasture rotation, or just little tricks that have worked for them.

I plan to stay as involved as I can with DAPNet and encourage folks in Pennsylvania working with animal-power to be join as well so we can grow this network! This is the future that I want to be a part of.



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Plan to be a part of it, as Horse Progress Days returns to Mt. Hope, Ohio in 2014. Tillage demonstrations, planting demonstrations, haymaking demonstrations, seminars, and good food. Make plans to be here for both days to take in as much as you can.

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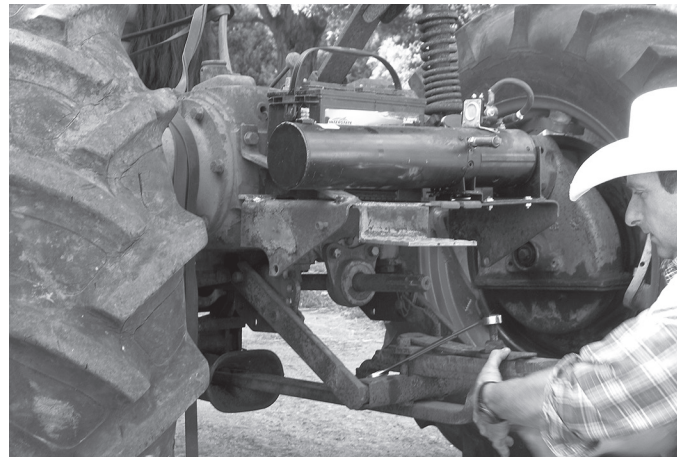
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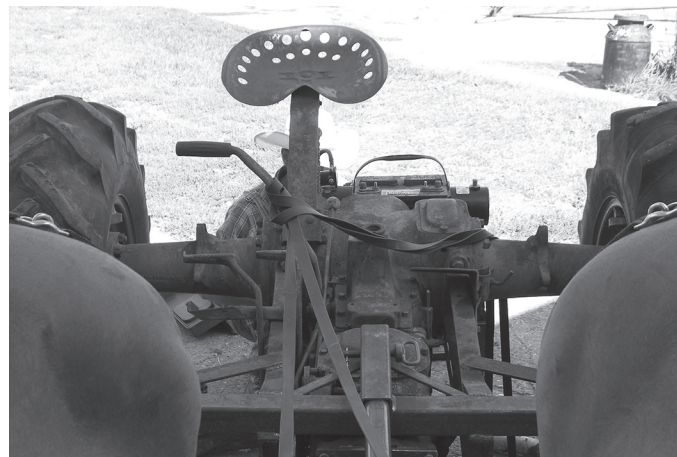
Alice Chalmers Tractor Re-invented as a PTO Forecart

By Neal & Rebekah Perry

What happens when you pull your uncle's Alice Chalmers tractor out of the woods and haul it home, one wheel hub dragging on the ground...? Well, when an imaginative brain gets ahold of an idea, anything is possible. My husband, Neal Perry was drawn to the idea of creating a ground-drive PTO forecart to pull with our team of Brabants, the Alice Chalmers WD45 was just the ticket. The goal was to be able to pull our 18' gyro tedder and possibly a haybine and/or baler with the horses.



Once the tractor was home he cut out the 4" poplar that was growing up through the middle and started designing the finished cart. New tires ("new" being a relative term) from the local garage stood it upright and his inventor/welder friend Phil came to check it out. "We'll cut it here and take this off and put that over there!" enthused Phil (insert various tractor part names as you see fit - I'm a horse farmer so most of those words don't translate for me). Soon the tractor was hauled to Phil's shop where surgery began.



The front end of the tractor was removed: motor, wheels and all. In its place a hitch was welded on and some receivers for a pole or shafts.

Because the tractor has 4 gears on it, you have four speeds that the p.t.o can run. When we pull the tedder we can gear it down slow enough to be an effective double

gyro rake. Because the WD's have a hand clutch we can also shift on the fly which means the harder-to-turn implements like the haybine and baler can be started slowly and geared up on the fly, making it much easier for the horses to start the load. We can also engage an implement without stopping the horses.



Another great feature is the brakes which were left operable. Like any other farm tractor there is a brake for each wheel. This makes precision backing for hooking on to implements easy. A hydraulic pump & battery are mounted on the back so implements can be lifted up and down. The relatively heavy weight of the forecart is an advantage when it comes to turning the bigger equipment because it doesn't spin out or drag, whatever you hook behind it turns! The heaviness also makes it a very comfortable ride for the driver.

The forecart works very well on the tedder and will run our smaller baler, a Massey Ferguson 124 with four horses pulling it. The only limiting factor for the size of equipment that this forecart can run is the number of horses hooked to it. With 8 horses we could run our larger baler, a MF 228. We use three horses when we are tedding heavy hay, though when we use the gyro tedder to rake two windrows or ted second cut, two horses are fine.

The biggest issue we've found is that there is a tremendous amount of down-pressure on the pole when the p.t.o is engaged. To solve this issue, we hook it behind our Pioneer forecart so it takes the down-pressure and the horses just pull the load.



All in all, we are very pleased with the outcome of this experiment. The Alice Chalmers was a good choice for a tractor-to-forecart conversion. Of course there are a few details we would do differently next time, but such is the nature of a prototype, right? Look for more photos on our website: www.nealperryfarm.com

What a neat process to see a piece of junk get pulled out of the woods and come alive as a whole new beast - and a useful one at that!

Green Mountain Draft Horse Association,
from page 6

Congress on Sunday October 5th and giving wagon rides at Shelburne Farm's Harvest Festival on Saturday September 20th.

GMDHA welcomes non-members to attend their meetings and encourages them to stay up to date by following them on Facebook, or keeping an eye on their website at www.GMDHA.org. For more information about the club or their activities, contact president Jean Cross: 1-802-877-6802 or email jean@greenmountaindraft.org



Dave Clark with Mary McNeil on the reaper/binder at the 2014 Addison County Fair and Field Days

Calendar of Events:

FIND DETAILS AND MORE INFORMATION ON THE DAPNET WEBSITE EVENTS PAGE OR SEE LISTED CONTACT INFO.

SEPTEMBER 7: NOFA-NH DRAFT POWER EQUIPMENT FOR SPECIALTY CROP GROWERS - Hillside Springs Farm, Westmoreland, NH

SEPTEMBER 20-21: GROUNSWELL DRAFT ANIMAL PRACTICUM: INTRO TO WORKING W/DRAFT ANIMALS - Marathon, NY - 607-319-5095
Learn a variety of practical skills using horses & mules, discuss why choose animal power, economics, etc.

SEPTEMBER 26 - 28: DAPNET ANNUAL GATHERING - Cummington, MA - 802-763-0771
BE THERE FOR A GREAT WEEKEND WITH FRIENDS OLD AND NEW!

OCTOBER 4: INTRODUCTION TO HORSE LOGGING - Fair Winds Farm, Brattleboro, VT - 802-254-9067
Covering the basics of moving logs with horses, use of equipment, safety considerations, etc.

OCTOBER 6-11: WORLD PERCHERON CONGRESS - West Springfield, MA
Volunteers needed for DAPNet representation, contact Karen, dapnetinfo@gmail.com

OCTOBER 15: INFORMATIONAL TOUR AT NORDELL'S HORSE-POWERED MARKET GARDEN - Beech Grove Farm, Trout Run, PA
Walk the vegetable fields, check out the equipment, ask questions. Preregistration required: send letter of interest to Ann & Eric by mid-September: 3410 Rt 184, Trout Run, PA 17771

OCTOBER 18: GREEN MT. DRAFT HORSE ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING - 3427 Rt 30, Sudbury, VT
For info call Jean: 802-877-6802

OCTOBER 28-31: DRAFT HORSE WORKSHOP - Fair Winds Farm, Brattleboro, VT - 802-254-9067
Hands-on workshop covering harnessing, hooking, driving and more.

NOVEMBER 22: DRAFT HORSE WORKSHOP - Fair Winds Farm, Brattleboro, VT - 802-254-9067
Hands-on workshop covering mower renovation, rebuilding and adjustments.



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Regional Draft Club Profile: Green Mountain Draft Horse Association

The Green Mountain Draft Horse Association was started by a small group of people that would get together to work with their horses in c.1989. They organized with the idea that they would be able to “establish friendly communication and encourage the exchange of ideas for the purpose of assisting its member in the areas of breeding, exhibiting, buying, selling & promoting the varied uses of draft horses, mules, ponies & oxen.”



Ron Larock on the corn binder at the 2014 Addison County Fair and Field Days

With a member base throughout Vermont and adjoining states, they host quarterly meetings in addition to a spring animal & equipment sale, regular demonstrations at Shelburne Farms, farm-horse demos every day at the Addison County Field Days and various clinics and workshops. This busy group has a membership of about 160 people, many of whom have and use horses on their farms & woodlots.


GMDHA members have helped at past DAPNet events including the Northeast Animal-Power Field Days in Tunbridge and the Draft Animal-Power Field Days in Barton. We share many members in common and look forward to more cooperative events in the future.

Interested in checking them out? The fall meeting is scheduled for October 18 at the home of Ted Russell in Sudbury, Vermont. Activities will include taking a wagon ride over to Ann Harper’s farm to see her new Brabant foal. Other upcoming events include hosting the information table at the Percheron

continued on page 13

The Draft Horse Connection

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Ken Laing is cultivating using his Suffolk Punch horse

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Annual Gathering Pre-Registration Form

Event Location: Cummington Fairgrounds, 97 Fairground Rd, Cummington Ma 01026

Event Times: Friday, September 26th – Check-in and registration, 5-7pm, 7pm Potluck Dinner

Saturday, September 27th – Meals, workshops and more, 8am – 9pm

Sunday September 28th – Brunch, workshop, DAPNet Annual Meeting, 8am – 1pm

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Number of People Attending: Adults ____ Children (please include ages) _____

For which days do you plan to attend? ____ Friday ____ Saturday ____ Sunday

Registration Fees:

	Pre-Registration Prices	Walk-in Registration Prices
Adult (1 day)	\$15	\$20
Family (1 day)	\$30	\$35
Adult (Whole Weekend)	\$30	\$35
Family (Whole Weekend)	\$45	\$50

Please calculate the total amount due:

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C. Meal Donations (Prices listed are walk-in prices, at the end there is a section where you take off 10% for pre-registration.)

Saturday:

Breakfast - (# of Adults x \$8 = _____) + (# of Kids x \$4 = _____) = _____

Lunch - (# of Adults x \$14 = _____) + (# of Kids x \$7 = _____) = _____

Dinner - (# of Adults x \$14 = _____) + (# of Kids x \$7 = _____) = _____

Sunday: Brunch - (# of Adults x \$10 = _____) + (# of Kids x \$5 = _____) = _____

Total Section C = _____ (-) subtract 10% for pre-registration) = \$ _____

Please indicate meal preferences (vegetarian/dairy free/gluten free): _____

Total amount due (add totals from Section A + B + C) = \$ _____

Please make a check out to the Draft Animal-Power Network. Mail check, along with pre-registration form to: 509 Dutton Brook Lane, Brownington, Vermont 05860

We look forward to seeing you there!

DAPNet Board of Director Nominees for Annual Meeting 2014

Will Stephens - Nantucket, MA

I live on a small farm with my wife and small collection of animals... a dream come true. I am transitioning to draft and driving horses from saddle horses and the one



AMAZING mentor I had sold her farm to us and moved to France. I found DAPNet. An amazing collection of unselfish people dedicated to living a human scale, working animals

as part of a sustainable lifestyle, with an unmatched energy for sharing and helping. I would like to join the Board of Directors to increase my level of involvement and do what I can to help other people find this network and to encourage more experienced people to get and stay involved too. Living on Nantucket, I have limited farm work that I can do with my horses so I am working towards a commercial carriage business, retiring my tractor from the contract mowing I do and trying to pick up some a little forestry management work. I've got a long way to go but it's a lot of fun! As the owner & president of Stevens & Company building contractors, I bring to the board a strong background in business management with a focus on customer service.

Suzie Brennan- Breathing Space Farm, New Concord, NY

I'm excited to be part of Draft Power enthusiast in support of our future food and low impact non-fossil fuels in regard to sustainable gardening. I own a 38 acre farm in New Concord, NY

where I currently train Draft horses by using farm implements. Percherons are my passion. Draft horses have been part of my life since 1978 haven grown up on a 300+ acre farm in Hillsdale, New York. In the late 70's early 80's my father encouraged me not to go into farming due to the economy. So the course of life steered me into Sue Brennan House Design & Construction, which I built a number of homes in the Berkshires. The farm never left me. After work or mid-day lunch I was on the farm helping and driving horses



as much as possible. Sundays the farm was always open for friends to stop by with horse's to do various activities such as sleigh rides, plowing, disc-harrowing, wagons rides or corn harvesting. We have trained many horses over the years and have help equally the same number of horse owners in various ways. I believe over the years I believe I have driven over 500 different horse. That's 500 different personalities. Which is where my expertise or "not so" expertise comes in. I find that communication with a horse is a continuous learning process. Draft Animal Power is a great network of hands on mentors and drivers of many aspects. I hope to add to DAPnet and am open to any one that needs to call and pick my brain on "issues" with their horses. Also in 2015 I hope to have a Beginners Clinic at my farm in New Concord thru DAPnet. Looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Lizzy Koltai - Helios Horsepower Farm, Bowdionham, ME

I farm with my Halflinger team, Moment and Gaila, starting Helios Horsepower Farm this spring focusing on growing organic vegetables for the Good Shepherd Food Bank. I have been farming since 2007 including interning at Full Belly Farm and starting and growing a CSA at Amy's Farm in CA. I moved to Maine in 2012 to work for Buckwheat Blossom Farm and learn from their 3 Belgians about growing a market garden with horse-power. I come to DAPNet with my farming and CSA-building background as well as my connections to the farming community. I also participate in the Low-Impact Forestry program at MOFGA and would like to help continue the connection between DAPNet and the draft horse community in Maine.

Daniel Grover - Shrewsbury, Vermont

Daniel Grover grew up in in the mid-Atlantic states, lived in Israel for a year, and began farming during summers at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania. He worked as a farm-camp counselor at the FARM Institute on Martha's Vineyard in 2009 and 2010 and had his first ox droving opportunities there. After semesters in England and Costa Rica pursuing agriculture and learning about food systems, he returned to PA and began working in exchange for vegetables at the Dickinson College Farm, remaining on the farm for a season after graduation. He ran a small vegetable CSA and market garden using draft horses and mules at the Northland Sheep Dairy in NY. He is currently working at Evening Song Farm near Rutland VT and working for FarmHack & DAPNet.



2014 DAPNet Annual Gathering September 26TH - 28TH It's shaping up to be a great weekend!

Join us in Cummington, MA for this low key event featuring working animals demonstrating plowing, cultivating, logging tools and more. Other demonstrations planned for the weekend include harness Styles & Fitting, Oxen Basics, Building a Barn for Loose Hay, Review of Horse Progress Days, Mower Rebuilding & Adjustments, Horse Training, AND MORE!!

Also you won't want to miss the premier of the long awaited Lincoln Woods video on Friday evening. There will be plenty of time throughout the weekend to visit with old friends and meet new folks. Getting started with draft animals? Introduce yourself to a teamster and start making connections, get advice and input from those who have been there.

Want to win a mowing machine? Our Mower Raffle will be held on Saturday evening – this is your LAST CHANCE to buy tickets and support DAPNet in the process! Don't need a mower? The winner will choose a mower or \$1,000 cash. Also learn about next year's raffle and other exciting DAPNet projects in the works.

If you didn't make it to Horse Progress Days this summer, be sure to stick around after supper on Saturday evening to hear Stephen Leslie, David Fisher and Donn Hewes' summary of the event. They will have some photos of equipment as well as comments and reflections on the event and the draft horse community in the central Ohio area.

Sunday morning will start with the DAPNet Annual Meeting. This organization is powered by people who are passionate about draft animal power and we need YOUR help! Bring your energy & ideas and help shape where the organization is headed next year and beyond.

Are you a vegetable? Ahem, rather, do you grow vegetables? Join veteran vegetable growers Erika Marczak, David Fisher & Stephen Leslie for a Teamster Roundtable on Sunday morning. Bring your questions and hear responses from draft horse and oxen perspectives.

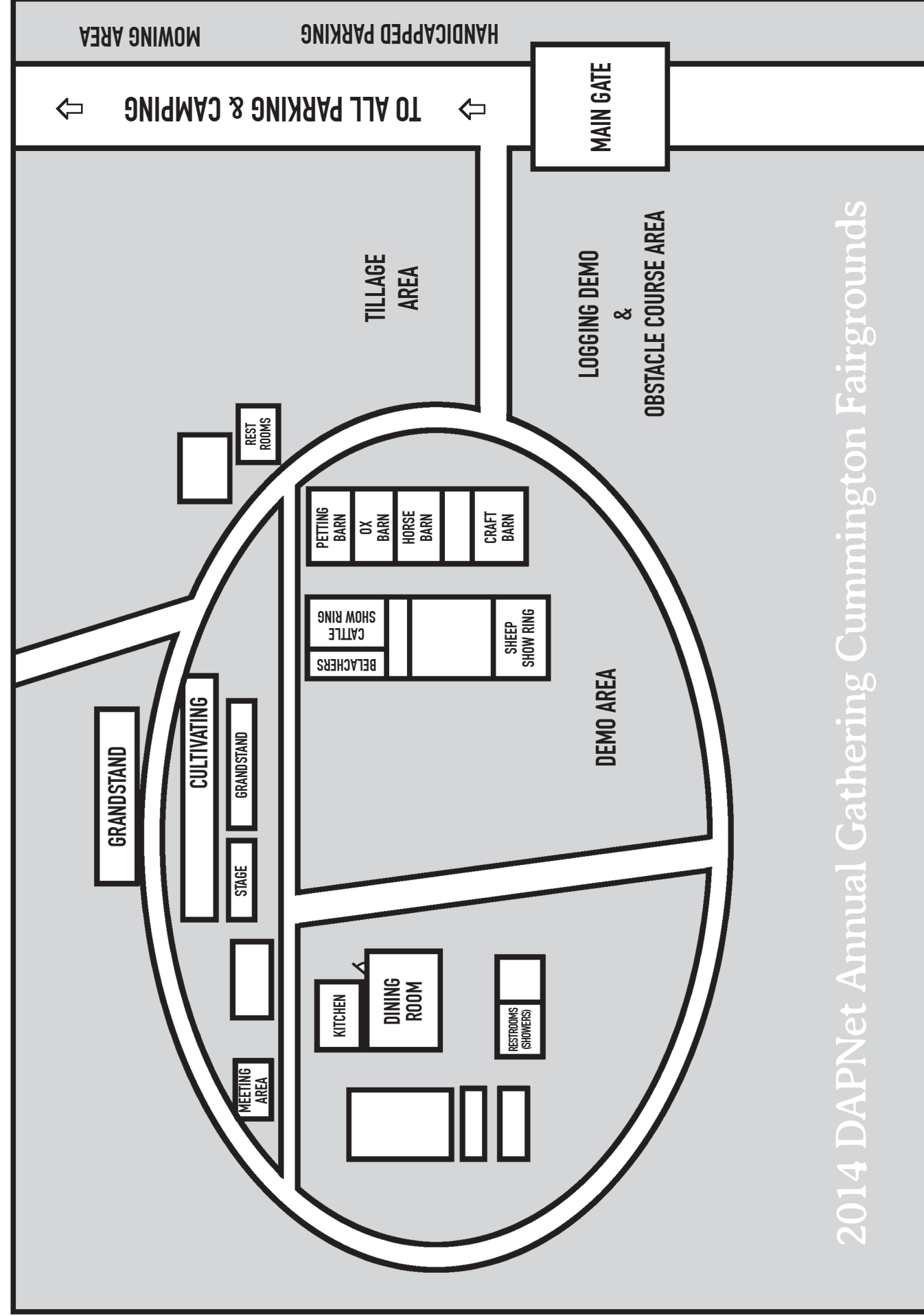
Events are planned for Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday through noon. Camping & meals are available at the Fairgrounds. Help us plan by sending in your pre-registration form now. Meals must be pre-ordered for the sake of the cook's sanity, so please help us out by sending your form in today. Wondering what will happen if it rains? The Cummington Fairgrounds has LOTS of inside space so we'll move many of the demos inside. Some won't be able to be done inside, so we'll sub in some great conversations about using draft animals in various applications, technical adjustments, the economics of draft animals, how to get started and more. Join us rain or shine – it will be a great weekend either way!

We look forward to a weekend of recharging our proverbial batteries --with animal power, of course. See you there!

Annual Gathering Schedule of Activities 2014

Note: this schedule is tentative and is subject to change according to circumstances outside of our control. We will do our best to offer a variety of presentations during each block. Not all presentations will last for the entire time block.

	Workshops	Location	Presenters
Friday			
4-6 pm	Check in, Settle in		
6:30 pm	Potluck Supper		
Lincoln Woods VIDEO PREMIER!			
Saturday			
7:15am - 8:15am	Breakfast – buffet Harnessing & Set up		
9am – Noon	Workshop Block I Wagon Rides	To Plow or Not To Plow? Harness Styles, Fit & Adjustment Logging Tools & Obstacle Course Mower Adjustments	Tillage Area Cattle Show Ring OC Area Mowing Area David Fisher, Bill West Neal & Rebekah Perry Tom Jenkins Donn Hewes
12:30 - 1:30pm	Lunch		
2pm - 5pm	Workshop Block II	Cultivating – novice lesson Horse Training Demos Intro to oxen Logging Tools & Obstacle Course Mowing Loose Hay Barn Building slide show & discussion Music	Cultivating or Tillage Demo Area Sheep Show Ring OC Area Mowing Area Dining Room Meeting Area Stephen Leslie & David Neal & Rebekah Perry Tom Jenkins Bill West Donn Hewes David Fisher Bacon 'n Eggs
5pm - 6pm	Chore time		
6pm	Dinner		
MOWER RAFFLE DRAWING!			
7:30pm	HPD Photos, review & reflections	Horse Progress Days: Reflections	Dining Room Stephen, David, Donn
Sunday			
7:15 - 8:30am	Breakfast		
7:45 AM	DAPNet Annual Meeting		
9 – 9:30am	Harnessing & Set up	Cowboy Church	Donn Hewes Pastor Neal Perry
9:30 - 12:00	Workshop Block III	Smoothing & Reseeding Cultivating Logging Tools & Obstacle Course Horse Training Q&A Round Table Discussion	Bill West Stephen, David, Erika Tom Jenkins Neal Perry Stephen, David, Erika
11:00 AM	Animal-Powered Vegetable Farms		
12:30 PM	Lunch, Cleanup & Farewells		



2014 DAPNet Annual Gathering Cummington Fairgrounds