

Fall 2013



## You Are Invited to Historic O'Neil Farm's Annual Farm Day

on Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 11am to 3 pm

(Rain date: Sunday, September 22, 2013 from 11am to 3pm)

The Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation committed to maintaining the 145-acre farm in agriculture in perpetuity, preserving and protecting the historic landscape and natural habitat, providing educational programs, and offering public access to the farm.

Join us for September fun. Meet farm animals, visit agricultural exhibits, talk with the farm's Junior Friends teens and Farmtastic 4-H Club members, play children's games, enjoy face painting and crafts, indulge in hamburgers, hot dogs and ice cream, listen to Bluegrass music and spend the afternoon in the barnyard.

Please park in the farm's Autumn Avenue field and ride the hay wagon to the barnyard or walk our woodland trail to the barnyard. The day is free and open to the public.

- Board of Directors*  
 Susan Schortmann, President  
 Pat Loring, Treasurer  
 Douglas Muir, Esq., Clerk  
 Sam Butcher  
 Kimberly Glattstein  
 Jerry Ingersoll  
 Marie King

Carl O'Neil

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PO Box 2755  
Duxbury, MA 02331

email:  
info@historiconcelfarm.org  
website: historiconcelfarm.org

The Autumn Avenue trailhead parking lot is open dawn to dusk.



Farmer, Carl O'Neil's  
Milking Demonstration



Wagon Rides to the Barnyard



Bog Stompers Bluegrass Band

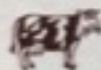
# Haying Seasons

When people think of spring on the farm, their minds quickly go to adorable new calves romping in the fields. Spring is the busiest time of year on a farm, but not just because of the new arrivals. Spring means the farmer needs to ready the farm equipment for haying. Before the tractors and haying equipment are used, all the moving parts must be greased and oiled and the engine filters changed.

Haying is the process of cutting the field hay and packaging it for feeding the cows later in the year. At O'Neil Farm, Carl O'Neil makes round hay bales. At other farms they are sometimes square. In New England, there are usually three cuttings of hay done in each field. The first cut is usually taken between mid May and mid June. Haying is very weather dependent. At O'Neil Farm this cutting is mostly used for balage. Balage is cut hay baled in round bales with a relatively high moisture content and then stored in plastic wrapping to ferment. The hay is cut the first day, then baled and wrapped the second day. To make "dry hay" the

weather must be dry for several days in a row. Cutting "dry hay" is usually done in the summer heat between June and August. To make "dry hay", the hay is cut the first day and is tedded several times a day for the next several days before it is baled. Tedding is the process when the tractor drags a tedder around and fluffs the hay to allow it to dry more completely. It is important that the hay is dry before it is baled for "dry hay" because any moisture left in the hay will cause it to mold, making it inedible for the dairy herd. The third cut of hay is usually a mixture of dry hay and balage. These bales are so large and heavy they require a special tractor attachment called a "grabber" to move them around the farm.

As you drive down Winter Street or walk one of Historic O'Neil Farm's trails, look around. You might see haying in progress!



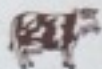
Tedding the Hay



Baling the Hay

## HOF Welcomes New Board Member, Marie King

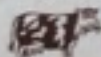
Historic O'Neil Farm is pleased to welcome new Board Member, Marie (Mansfield) King of Kingston. Marie is a naturalist, farmer and paleoecologist. Her favorite book is, *Guns, Germs & Steel* by Jared Diamond. She is looking to bring her interest in biological processes to our Board. Welcome Marie!



## New Movable Shed

Funded by donations to the 2013 Historic O'Neil Farm Annual Fund, the farm's new movable shed is complete and in use with our agricultural education programs. Next, we will purchase fencing to be installed adjacent to the shed, allowing us to use the new shed to its full potential. If you have not yet had a chance to donate to the 2013 Historic O'Neil Farm Annual Fund, please consider a donation today to help purchase the new fencing.

This dual purpose shed, constructed especially for use with the farm's educational programs, enables children to be in close proximity to the calves to observe and become knowledgeable with their behavior. The shed can also be used to provide shade and shelter for a cow who is giving birth or is ill.



Junior Friends in the New Movable Shed

## New Bay Farm Montessori Academy Program

Last spring an experimental learning program was begun with 7th and 8th graders from Bay Farm Montessori Academy. The program consisted of seven once-a-week sessions. The students received information about dairy farming and dairy cattle. They also learned to work with calves. It was wonderful to see the excitement on these teenager's faces when they arrived to find a new calf had been born and to observe their increased confidence as they became more comfortable working with the calves. Program topics included the life cycle of a dairy cow, dairy breeds and the parts of a cow, including how their digestive system works with four stomach compartments. The students' favorite activities included learning how to walk the cows and a milking demonstration when they each experienced milking a cow by hand at Sue Schortmann's farm. We are now in the planning stages of offering the program again next year with advanced topics for the 7th graders who will become 8th graders and repeating the experience of introducing incoming 7th graders to the farm.



Bay Farm Montessori Students

## Pembroke High School Seniors

This past spring, Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc. teamed up with Pembroke High School. Two high school seniors completed their Senior Service Projects at the farm. Skyla and Kim came to the farm and helped with milking, learned about the farm's dairy herd and worked on the farm's educational program with Bay Farm Montessori Academy. It was an outstanding experience for everyone and one the farm hopes to continue.

