

Coach and Livestock Newsletter

Vol 5, January 2019

Cattle- We've got some new arrivals in the barn! We have recently acquired two new oxen for our program. The two pictured below are Sam and Hunt. They are Milking Shorthorn cattle from Maine and are



almost two years old. These two are award winning oxen having won their weight class at the Freiberg Fair in New England. They have been taking training excursions through the historic area to become accustomed to the new sites and smells of Colonial Williamsburg. If you see them walking through town you may notice that they are smaller than the other oxen in our herd. While they are the same breed of cattle as our other oxen, Pat and Mike as well as Enus, and Roscoe, they are not fully grown and will grow to be the same size in the coming years.

Horses- Our Cleveland's continue to progress in their pregnancies. Isabella's foal is still backwards and we are keeping our fingers crossed that it decides to turn around in the final months. All the other foals are doing well and we greatly anticipate their arrival!

In other horse news it is time for our horses to have their annual chiropractic checks. With the assistance of Woodside Equine Clinic every one of our horses receives this checkup once a year. In it Dr. Anderson

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checks for any soreness or tightness in the horse and in most cases can adjust it on the spot much like a human chiropractor does. We will also soon be visited by Dr. Hirsch, also from Woodside, for the horses regularly scheduled health check. This checkup involves vaccines, worm checks, and teeth cleaning should it be needed and always makes for a busy few days at the barn.

Carriages- The slower winter season for us means that it is time to work on our many behind the scenes project. One of our biggest projects this year is the painting of the Red Carriage. This carriage has been out of service for two years and in that time has been completely refurbished. Our own Edward Merkley which many of you may know as a carriage driver is the main man responsible for repainting any of our carriages. He has been working hard and diligently at this project for quite some time. We have brought in an expert carriage painter, Geoffrey Ryder, to help us in the final stages of the painting.



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Barn- *As part of our winter priorities it is time for us to redo the stall mats in our barn on Franklin Street. As these mats have not been redone since the barn was built some 18 years ago it has become quite the undertaking. While the old mats came in one piece, the new ones are much like a giant jigsaw puzzle requiring assembly into a 10x10 square and then into smaller 4x10 ones for our stalls. Our staff will get a serious workout putting these mats in when the time comes.*



Pasture- *We currently have around 64 acres for all 103 grazing animals that we take care of. On average, our cattle need around 2 acres of sustainable grass per cow to flourish, they also eat around 2% of their body weight, so for a 1000lb cow, an average 20lbs of forage a day is needed. As we have 27 cattle that means on average we need*

around 54 acres. That plus 30 horses and 46 sheep means that we go through grass at an incredible rate. In the last few months we have worked hard to replant several of our pastures, to keep up with the demand of our animals. Our bypass facility has been completely replanted and we are currently working on our pasture at Quarterpath.



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Staff- In the last month we have seen some staff changes in Coach and Livestock. As was announced, the Liberty Program ended at the beginning of the month. With this we lost our senior dog trainer Adam Claar. We will also be losing one of our Livestock Husbanders, Layne Anderson. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

With this however, we have also added two new members of staff. Graham Callaway and Tess Plumer are our two new livestock husbanders. You will be sure to run into them around town tending to the sheep and chickens. Please stop by to say hi!