



MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oxen Knowledge Shared by Hartz-Hill Farm

July 19th, 2018

Rhinebeck, NY - "As strong as an ox" is the phrase that most everyone has heard, but few are acquainted with the animal that goes by this name. An ox is nothing more than a trained dairy or beef steer that has reached the age of 5 and can weigh 1,500 to 3,000 pounds.

Over thirty years ago, Ralph and Judy Hartzell of Hartz-Hill Farm, bought their first pair of dairy bull calves, castrated them and trained them to become oxen.

Ralph has used the Holstein dairy breed in the past, but favors Brown Swiss steers for turning into oxen. Ralph stated, "I feel the dairy breeds make the best oxen because of their long legs and they also have horns which is considered a necessity for oxen".

Hartz-Hill Farm's main goal is to educate the public about the history of the oxen but are also dedicated to showing their oxen to show how farmers value their animals. Farmers have every reason to take good care of them and use them in ways that are not cruel or abusive, but rather ensure their ongoing value.



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Hartz-Hill Farm's Oxen exhibit is part of the continued efforts of the Dutchess County Fair's mission to educate and promote agriculture. The oxen will be on display all week during the Fair and will be located near the Salute to Agriculture Tent on the infield.

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