

Billings Farm & Museum • 2015 Calendar of Special Events

April 4: Baby Animal Day Meet the farm's newest additions during family-centered programs with our lambs, chicks, and calves; wagon rides and heirloom seed activity; 1890 Farm House & Dairy Bar are open. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

May 1: Opening Day – 33rd Season! Horse-drawn wagon rides and free ice cream.

May 2 & 3: Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies Opening weekend devoted to our Southdown sheep and their Border Collie friends. Watch the spring shearing of the farm's ewes and demonstrations of Border Collies herding sheep in the farm fields. *Admission includes a children's art show and the 30th annual spring commemorative button.*

May 23 & 24: Cheese & Dairy Celebration Celebrate Vermont's distinctive dairy heritage during a weekend of sampling delicious New England cheeses and dairy products and meeting local cheese makers; dairy education programs and making cheese, ice cream, and butter.

June 7, 14, 21 & 28: Ice Cream Sundays *June is Dairy Month!* Lend a hand making and sampling delicious ice cream at 12:15 & 2:15 p.m. while learning the history and science of this dairy treat.

July 1 – September 30: Wagon Ride Wednesdays Horse-drawn wagon rides featured each Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

July 4: Old Vermont 4th A patriotic family celebration featuring the reading of the Declaration of Independence, an historic debate, wagon rides, making 1890 flags, spelling bees, sack races, and lots more.

July 7 - August 18: Time Travel Tuesdays Experience late 19th century chores and pastimes in the farmhouse firsthand, and stay as long as you like. There's plenty of work and fun for every age!

July 10 – October 16: Foodways Fridays Discover how we use seasonal vegetable and herbs from our heirloom garden in historic recipes. Different take-home recipes each week!

July 19: National Ice Cream Day Help make and sample four flavors of ice cream as we celebrate the *great American dessert*. Horse-drawn wagon rides.

July 26: Hay Day Spend a summer day with us in the farm fields, where you'll see traditional haying techniques, including cutting, raking, and tedding with the farm's draft horses and equipment. Quench your thirst with a sample of switchel, the haymaker's drink. Especially for families: *penny-in-the-haystack*, making scarecrows, puppets, and clothespin horses; horse-drawn wagon rides, farm programs, and activities.

August 1 - September 20: 29th Annual Quilt Exhibition This juried exhibition of colorful quilts made exclusively in Windsor County will celebrate 29 years of quilting excellence at the Billings Farm. Quilting demonstrations, programs and activities for children and adults.

August 2: Antique Tractor Day Tractors made between the 1920s and the 1960s will be displayed from 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. by the proud and talented folks who restored them. The *tractor parade* at 1:00 p.m. includes restoration details and historical information. Tractor-drawn wagon rides and tractor activities for children, including the popular tractor sandbox.

August 15 & 16: Heritage Chicken Days See a variety of heritage chicken breeds to learn about their unique traits and personalities. Fun facts about chickens and eggs. Children's games and crafts.

September 6: Labor & Leisure Day Work and fun on the farm! Wagon rides, building a split rail fence, ice cream making, and laundry – using a washboard and wringer.

September 5, 12, 19, & 26: Traditional Craft Saturdays: Explore traditional crafts and learn more about their history, process, and use from experienced crafters. Sept. 5: Toothbrush Rugs with Karen Bushey; Sept. 12: Basket & Chair Seat Making with Jane Darling; Sept. 19: Leather Tanning with Mark Humpal; Sept. 26 – Woodworking with Ross Morgan.

October 3 & 4: Pumpkin & Apple Celebration - Hands-on programs will highlight these two essential fall crops, including apple tasting, cider pressing, pumpkin bowling, apples-on-a-string, making pumpkin and apple ice cream, cooking apple butter in the farmhouse, and wagon rides.

October 10 & 11: Harvest Weekend - Vermont Chamber of Commerce 2015 Top 10 Fall Event! Join us for a traditional Vermont harvest celebration with a husking bee and barn dance; cider pressing, harvesting root vegetables, “putting food by,” and more; spiced cider and homemade doughnuts.

October 17 & 18: Autumn Wagon Ride Weekend Narrated horse-drawn wagon rides around the Billings’ fields during the height of fall foliage; farm programs and activities.

October 25: A Family Halloween *Halloween fun for all ages!* Doughnuts-on-a-string, pumpkin carving, Halloween tales, wagon rides, and lots more. Costume parades at 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. *Children in costume admitted free when accompanied by an adult.*

LATE FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS

November Wagon Ride Weekends – November 1, 7 & 8; 14 & 15; 21 & 22: Take a horse-drawn wagon ride and enjoy the dairy farm, farmhouse, and farm life exhibits during late fall – when the brilliance of foliage has softened and the weather is still pleasant; daily programs and activities. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Weekend – November 27- 29: The tradition of celebratory feasts for a bountiful harvest spans cultures, continents, and millennia. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House at the Billings Farm – preparations, menu, and entertainment – and the critical and demanding work of harvesting crops each fall. The “History of Thanksgiving” programs will be presented in the parlor; holiday food programs and activities. Enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride. *Last weekend of the season to visit the farm life exhibits.* 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Christmas at the Farm – December Weekends & Dec. 19 - Jan. 3, (excluding Christmas Day): Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse and linger in the cozy kitchen as treats are baked in the woodstove. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Don’t miss a winter visit to the farm. *Dec. 26-Jan. 3 – horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides (weather permitting).* 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wassail Weekend – December 11, 12, & 13: You’ll be welcomed to tour the festively decorated 1890 Farm House; make a historic ornament as a memento of your visit. *Sunday: horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides (weather permitting).* 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

2016 Winter Events

January & February Weekends: Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep – inside for the winter – and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land*, our Academy Award®-nominee film is shown every hour in the theater. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sleigh Ride Weekend – January 16 – 18: Horse-drawn sleigh rides; jack jumper sledding; dairy farm and restored farmhouse; in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend the documentary, *A Time for Justice*, will be shown on the hour. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sleigh Ride Week - February 13 – 21: Sleigh rides; sledding with jack jumpers; tour the dairy farm and farmhouse; programs and hands-on activities; presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.