

Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc.
PO Box 2755
Duxbury, MA 02331

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Join Us for Farm Day 2016
~ Saturday, September 17, 2016 ~

2016 Annual Fund Support the Farm Today

The Historic O'Neil Farm Annual Fund provides much needed program enhancement funds. With our busy spring and summer seasons approaching, your donations are especially welcome. A gift in any amount will assist our Education Coordinator in providing fun quality agricultural education. Please plan to join us for our 2016 tours and events.

Your gift is greatly appreciated by all of us at the farm. Using the adjacent form, donations may be mailed to **PO Box 2755, Duxbury, MA 02331** or you can make an online donation at www.historiconeilfarm.org/donate.

Thank you



YES, I am committed to helping Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc. move into the future.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

email: _____

THANK YOU!

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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.

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Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc.
PO Box 2755
Duxbury, MA 02331

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website: historiconeilfarm.org
Find Us on Facebook:

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



70 Years and Counting: 4-H Clubs at the O'Neil Farm

Meet a pair of 4-H champions – Duxbury's Corinne Lee and O'Neil Farm Anna. You may have seen them at last year's Marshfield Fair. Together, Anna and Corinne achieved a number of awards during the 2015 4-H show season. Corinne won Champion Showman and Fitter at the Marshfield and Oakham Fairs as well as at the Eastern States Exposition, aka The Big E, where Anna was also awarded 4-H Dairy Show Champion Guernsey Heifer. Anna and Corinne are just the most recent in a long line of O'Neil Farm 4-H award winners to show at the local fairs.



Corinne Lee shows O'Neil Farm Anna at the Eastern States Exhibition "The Big E"

Farmer Carl O'Neil and his older siblings Barbara and Edward were all involved in 4-H in their youth. In those days, the O'Neil dairy herd was of mixed breeds but 4-H Dairy Clubs required registered animals to show, so the O'Neil kids selected Guernseys from Avery Farms in Plymouth. (The Averys are distant cousins of the O'Neils.) Barbara still remembers her first Guernsey, Dawn, a heifer who seemed to like the fairs even if she never won a thing. True to her breed, Dawn was quite calm and, as it turned out, smart too. One summer Barbara hadn't planned to show Dawn but, when left behind, the cow made such a fuss that Barbara's father asked that Dawn be entered late. She was no competitive threat to any of the other entries – "her head was beautiful but the udder was worse than terrible." She just knew where the other show cows were going and wanted to be there too! (continued next page)

The three young O'Neils belonged to the Ply-Ma-Hi-Co 4-H Club, named for the area towns from which the membership was drawn: Plymouth, Marshfield, Hingham and Cohasset. Dawn's lack of award-winning attributes notwithstanding, all of the O'Neil children showed, placed and won prizes for their Guernsey heifers during the 1940s and early 1950s. (Newspaper articles reporting their accomplishments can be seen at historiconeilfarm.org/history.) In addition to showing her own, Barbara handled other members' cattle in the show ring and even became a dairy show judge during her 13 years in 4-H.

Duxbury's Marilyn Hall Murphy has fond memories of her 4-H days in the late 1950s and early 60s when Carl O'Neil himself led the Dairy Club at the Farm. The Hall family lived next door to the O'Neils and both Marilyn and her older sister Jan participated in 4-H, showing O'Neil Farm Guernseys at the Marshfield Fair. In those days the 4-Hers stayed overnight at the school across from the fairgrounds. Marilyn recalls having to get up early every morning to hand milk her fair cow. Forty years later, Marilyn's daughter Deirdre became interested in experiencing 4-H like her mom had. With the support of Mr. O'Neil and the County Extension Service, Marilyn founded the Shamrock Club in 2003.

Today the Club continues at O'Neil Farm as Farmtastic 4-H, the same group of which Corinne Lee is a member. Each spring, the members select their cattle from Mr. O'Neil's herd. During the summer, the Club meets at the Farm to work with the calves and learn from Mr. O'Neil's lifetime of experience.

We are proud of the continuing tradition of 4-H Dairy Clubs at Historic O'Neil Farm. By preserving this farm as a working dairy, we are able to give another generation of young people the opportunity to benefit from the 4-H mission: to empower youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults. More information about local 4-H programs can be found at www.mass4h.org.



4-H Clubbers Proud of Exhibits at Fair
The O'Neils show their Guernseys at the 1948 Marshfield Fair. Left to right: Edward (age 14) Avery Farms Buttercup, Barbara (age 17), Avery Farms Prudence and Carl (age 12).



1963 Marilyn Hall shows one of Mr. O'Neil's Guernseys at the Marshfield Fair.



Farmtastic 4-H Club celebrating the holidays, December 2015.


Please Plan to Join Us for
Farm Day 2016
September 17, 2016 from 11am - 3pm
 Rain Date, Sunday, September 18th, 11 am to 3pm







Event Calendar

Friday, June 24, 1:00 – 4:00

We'll be celebrating **National Dairy Month with an Artist Open House**. Artists of all ages are invited to gather your cameras, paints and sketchpads and come find inspiration at the Farm. Free. Registration is requested.

Fridays – July 15, July 29 and August 5, 10:00 – 10:45

Barnyard Books is a new program for Moms (Dads, Grandparents) with preschool children. We'll read a story, play a game and pat a calf. \$2.00 per child. Registration is requested.

Fridays – July 15, July 29 and August 5, 1:30 – 2:30

In addition to Tours by Appointment, we've set aside some afternoons for scheduled **Walking Tours**. Park at Autumn Avenue Trailhead and we'll walk the Avery Trail to the Farm. Free. Registration is requested.

Friday, July 22, 9:00 – 1:00

Marks the return of our popular **Day at the Dairy**. This is a hands-on discovery program at the Farm for 7 – 12 year olds. Bring a lunch. \$35 per child. Registration is required.

We look forward to seeing you and ask that you let us know you are coming by registering online at HistoricOneilFarm.org.

If you'd like to help out with any of these programs, email Lisa at historiconeilfarm@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar – Farm Day 2016 – Saturday, September 17

Keep an eye on our website for updates on the day's events. We'll also be looking for volunteers to help out with Farm Day – this needn't be an all day commitment, we'd be grateful for half-day shifts, set-up or break-down too! Or maybe you can loan us a couple of picnic benches or 10x10 pop-up tent for the day.

eNews

Thank you for supporting the Farm by participating in Farm Day, Walk and Talks, Education Programs and various other farm events. To keep you up to date with happenings in 2016 we are expanding communication via email.

Our first program "History Talk by Carl O'Neil" was held April 11 in the Duxbury Free Library. We hope that you received communication about this event and were able to join us. Please log on to www.historiconeilfarm.org/enews.html if you would like to be included on our email communication regarding upcoming programs. You may unsubscribe at anytime. If you are unsure you have signed up, the entry form will tell you once you Subscribe.

We hope you join our contact list to receive periodic reminders about upcoming "Walks and Talks", kid's programs, and open house events.

Calf Corner



This is our young bull for next years breeding! Isn't he handsome?



Farmer, Carl O'Neil, has welcomed spring with new calf, Kelly. Kelly's mom, Katie, is one of the Holstein cows in the herd.



Sally joined our herd this winter when her mom, Sadie, gave birth in January. Always lovely to have a beautiful new Guernsey calf join the ranks!

Interested in receiving email updates of events and news? - Sign-up at: www.historiconeilfarm.org/enews.html

