

Workshops Nolalu Eco Centre www.NolaluEcocentre.org
Harnessing true Horsepower - advanced-working with farm horses

This workshop is designed for those who have done the previous course ("Intro to working with farm horses"), or have some basic experience/knowledge of working with horses. We'll start the day at the Eco Centre for some advanced theory and procedures, mostly training, harnessing and driving techniques. We'll then move to the nearby Bockus homestead for an introduction to training a horse to shafts (for a cart or sleigh) and plenty of hands-on experience. We will cover shaft driving techniques (cart or sleigh) and each participant will get to do some field driving of a basic work cart.

Please note: maximum 10 participants for this workshop, so each will have enough "horse time". Each participant will receive a certificate upon completion of the course.

Co-ordinator:Larry Bockus

A Forestry graduate of the of Lakehead University, Larry has spent most of his working days outside: as bushworker, forest technician, Utility Forester and chain saw instructor – anywhere but at a desk.

Over the years Larry also learned the homestead skills that seemed all but forgotten; it proved the perfect fit for his passion for self-sufficient living in harmony with the earth. Larry started using a single work horse in 1981 for logging and clearing land, then changed to light team horses and ultimately heavy draft horses. Since 1986 all of the his horses have been trained at the Bockus homestead – and very successfully so: he has won more prizes and awards than can be mentioned in this space.

Larry uses horse for all farm work: logging, making firewood, hay-, potato- and vegetable production, plowing, cultivation, skidding, pulling carts and sleighs, spreading manure and general chores – and more. Most of his horse-drawn equipment Larry designed and built at the farm, some is restored vintage machinery. Larry doesn't own a tractor, his horses do a better job; they go where tractors cannot go, are more rewarding to work with, don't burn fossil fuel – and provide free manure.