

HALE FARM & VILLAGE

A Museum of WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

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NEW OXEN TEAM DEBUT AT HALE FARM & VILLAGE MAPLE SUGAR FESTIVAL

Visitors can cast their vote to name the oxen March 1st through March 31st

March 17, 18, 24, & 25, 2012

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Presented by Bob Evans Restaurants

\$15 Adults; \$10 Children (age 3-12); \$5 WRHS/HFV members

*Hale Farm & Village
2686 Oak Hill Road, Bath, OH*

BATH, OH --- A team of 4-year-old milking shorthorn oxen moved from Maine to Hale Farm & Village in January. The oxen will make their public debut at the annual Maple Sugar Festival presented by Bob Evans Restaurants on March 17, 18, 24, & 25, 2012. After enjoying a pancake breakfast, guests will discover the ancient process of maple sugar production, a tradition in the Cuyahoga Valley that began with American Indians before the time of Jonathan Hale. Other event activities include exploring maple sugar production methods in the Sugar Camp, building a log cabin, making maple candy, and enjoying Hale Farm & Village craft and trade demonstrations, including glassblowing, blacksmithing, pottery, and spinning and weaving. One admission buys breakfast, courtesy of Bob Evans Restaurants, and all activities.

The milking shorthorn oxen are a historic breed originating from England. They will serve two very significant roles for Hale Farm & Village. They will demonstrate to the guests the early farming practices of the 19th century, and they will accomplish the needed tasks of tending a farm. The team will be used much like they would have been in the 1800s, plowing and harrowing fields, pulling carts for daily chores such as collecting maple syrup or transporting water, and hauling supplies like firewood for cooking and hay for feeding livestock.

Visitors to Hale Farm & Village are invited to help name the new oxen. Historically appropriate names can be submitted via the Hale Farm & Village Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/#!/halefarm>) or in person at the Maple Sugar Festival. The names will be announced April 1, 2012, on Facebook and on the Hale Farm & Village website. The person who suggests the chosen names will receive a one year family membership and will be invited to return to Hale Farm & Village to have their picture taken with the ox team.

The Maple Sugar Festival is two weekends, March 17-18, and 24-25, 2012 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Pancakes are served until 3:00 pm. No reservations are necessary. Admission is \$15 adults; \$10 Children (age 3-12); \$5 WRHS Members. Group discounts are available. Discount coupons are available in Bob

Evans Restaurants. Maple Sugar programs are available for school children March 19-23, 2012. For more information call 330-666-3711 or visit www.halefarm.org.

Need a ride? Take the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad's Maple Sugar Express. Visit www.CVSR.com or call 330-666-3711 for details.

Hale Farm & Village, a museum of the Western Reserve Historical Society, is Northeast Ohio's premier outdoor living history museum depicting daily life for mid-19th century residents of the Western Reserve. Located in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Hale Farm & Village features dozens of historic structures, farm animals, heritage gardens and demonstrations such as glassblowing, pottery, candle making, blacksmithing, and hearth cooking bringing history to life for visitors of all ages.

Founded in 1867, Western Reserve Historical Society is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit regional historical societies in the nation. WRHS inspires people to discover the American experience by exploring the tangible history of Northeast Ohio.
