



## Outfitting Kelley Farmers

*ReNee Hanson, Oliver Kelley Farm Interpreter & Friend of the Farm*

Think about your clothes. When was the last time you wore out an article of clothing? I mean patches on patches until there is almost none of the original garment left. That happens very infrequently in today's society with people leading rather sedentary lives in temperature-controlled environments. Clothing for nineteenth century farmers was about a lot more than just modesty- it was also protection from the elements. Without sunscreen, bug spray, and central heat and air conditioning, clothing protects against sun, bugs, heat, and cold. Today, we replace clothing on a whim because it's on sale or because we are just tired of what is currently in our closets, rather than replacing articles because they are truly worn out.

Now think about the demands of the clothing of 19th century farmers and their modern cohorts at the Kelley Farm. The clothing fibers are natural, consisting of mostly cotton and wool, rather than the "engineered" fibers of today that are made to last longer. Caring for farm animals is a dirty business no matter how careful you are

to stay clean. Trudging behind an ox-powered plow is much tougher on clothing than driving an enclosed, air-conditioned tractor. The dirt of the field and the sweat of the farmer combine to make a gritty paste that deteriorates the clothing fibers. Compare washing clothes on a scrub board with lye soap and drying on a clothesline in the sun, with the gentler washing action of a modern washing machine and dryer and detergent designed to be gentle on fabric.

Clothing didn't last long back then and it doesn't for our Kelley farmers either. Outfitting Kelley farmers is costly. A woman's full outfit consisting of a chemise, pantalettes, chemisettes, petticoats, dress, apron, bonnet, and shoes can cost upwards of \$1000.00. Men have fewer clothes with a complete outfit consisting of shirt, vest, pants, shoes, and hat, but the cost still hovers around \$775.00. The cost is attributable to the immense amount of time that goes into constructing these wardrobes with the amount of authenticity that we strive for, as well as

the sheer amount of fabric that is required. A woman's dress alone requires a minimum of nine yards of fabric!

There are sources for less expensive "reproduction" clothing, but they don't survive long with the rigorous work of nineteenth century farming interpretation. "Off-the-rack" clothing also doesn't fit the way it should when trying to present an accurate portrayal of farm-life on the prairie in the 1860's. The farm will be hiring three new interpreters for the 2013 season so new articles of clothing may be needed if the new employees don't fit any of the current costumes. Also,

many of the returning Kelley farmers are in desperate need of new clothing to replace the thread-bare and oft-patched articles they currently wear

The Kelley Farm has asked the Friends for financial support. The Friends have graciously given \$2000.00 to the farm to help with outfitting the farmers for the 2013 season. The Friends have provided many years of financial support to the farm and this donation continues the trend. The Friends of the Kelley Farm are pleased to support the programming of the Kelley Farm and to help maintain the high quality of interpretation at The Farm.



*Farmer interpreters at the Kelley Farm dress in period 19th century clothing. Authentic, durable costumes are a key part of the Kelley farm experience.*

# President's Column

John Kuester, Friends Board President

On October 27th, 2006, Oliver Hudson Kelley was inaugurated into the Agricultural Hall of Fame, sharing this honor with such luminaries as Abraham Lincoln, George Washington Carver, Luther Burbank, Willie Nelson, Eli Whitney, among others. The Hall of Fame exists to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of agriculture.

Around the date of his recognition, I wrote an acceptance speech that Kelley might have made to the Hall of Fame, had he still been alive. I felt that even though he had died in 1913, he probably would have welcomed the opportunity in 2006 to honor the National Grange, the founding of which being why he was being honored. Here are some portions from that "speech".

*"I have always felt that those who made their living from the soil are both honorable and noble, but that the enjoyment of the fruit of their labor was heavily hindered by three factors. The first factor was the isolation imposed by the back-breaking work of farming which left little opportunities for farmers to refresh their intellect and spirits in social company. The second factor was that farmers were often not exposed to modern farming techniques, and the solutions to farming woes most often provided by science. The third factor was the reality that farmers were forced to produce products under*

*adverse market conditions which they as individuals could not positively mitigate.*

*"I am proud to say that the National Grange made great headway in reducing all three of these challenging factors. First and foremost it is a grassroots organization that for 138 years has brought Grangers together both for social discourse and mental stimulation.*

*Much of this stimulation came in exposure to new, scientifically-based practices that when implemented increased production and generated additional income.*

*And finally, the Grange allowed individual farmers to speak with a united voice to improve the social and economic lot of all farmers."*



These remarks are timely because in July, members of the National Grange will gather at the Kelley Farm as the start of a five year celebration marking the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Grange. The Friends of the Kelley Farm will lend support at that time in welcoming Grangers from across the country. We know that the Farm is important to our area and to Minnesota for a number of reasons. Hopefully the national honor Kelley received from the Agricultural Hall of Fame and his "acceptance remarks" help us to understand why a local farmer cast such a huge shadow so many years ago.

# Farm Report

Ann Bercher, Program Supervisor, Oliver Kelley Farm

Winter shall soon be gone as there are signs of spring on the way! But the winter has not been a quiet one around the farm. We have been working diligently on the development of some new programs, one of which focuses on the affect of the Civil War on Minnesota Farms. That program will be offered to 6th grade students visiting the farm this spring.

Our young team of steers, Blaze and Bright, have been working hard all winter learning their lessons from Site Supervisor John Hanson. It takes four years to completely train a team, and for them to gain enough strength and size to be called a working team of oxen. They are well on their way.

The hot beds in the historic garden have been cleared of snow, and a warm blanket of horse manure has been placed in them to heat up the soil. Once the ground is thawed, the hot beds will be planted with early greens for harvesting in late April, and tomato and pepper plants will be transplanted from the hot beds in late

May. Those 19th century farmers knew how to expand the growing season without the benefit of local garden stores.

The Kelley Farm has hired new staff members. Karie Ouellette joined us as our new Program Administrative Assistant. She will be spending most of her time in the Visitor Center keeping track of visitors, school groups, and the gift shop. Three additional interpreters have been hired and will begin their duties in early April.

At this writing, Site Manager Bob Quist has been spending several days at the state Capital meeting with legislators and hoping that a Capital Bonding bill will include funds for the Kelley Farm revitalization. Once the cash is in hand, building will commence.

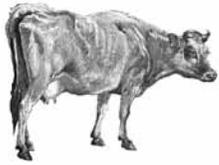
Over 5300 students have reservations with their schools to visit the farm this spring. Public hours begin on weekends in May. All Friends of the Kelley Farm need to visit! The critters have missed you!



Training young steers to work at The Farm is a year-round exercise.

# Upcoming Special Events

For more information or reservations for these events CALL 763.441.6896.



## Opening Weekend *Saturday & Sunday, May 4 - 5, 2013*

Spring is on the way and the Oliver Kelley Farm is starting to come alive. Visit opening weekend to see what new baby animals have been born, help with the early spring planting in the garden and fields, cook up the last of the root cellar produce and travel the nature trails by foot or on the horse drawn trolley.

## Build a Birdhouse Workshop

*Saturday, April 6, 2013*  
Time: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
Reservations Required  
CALL 763.441.6896

Birds are a valuable resource for gardeners and farmers, aiding in insect control and pollination of plant varieties. In this workshop, held in the Visitor's Center, participants will build a birdhouse to take home. All tools and equipment are provided.

This program is good for families, grandparents and grandchildren and other groups including Scouts. Reservations and prepayment are required.

## The Mighty Ox Team Driving Workshop

*Saturday, April 20, 2013*  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Reservations Required  
CALL 763.441.6896

Oxen have provided farm power for thousands of years. This workshop will teach the basics of ox driving and care. Participants must be 18 years or older. Prepayment is required. Wear sturdy shoes, clothing for variable weather and bring a bag lunch.

## Mother's Day Weekend

*Saturday & Sunday, May 11 - 12, 2013*

**MOMS GET IN FREE!** Explore the Kelley Farm as it springs to life on Mother's Day Weekend. Help plant seeds in the garden, harvest the first greens and meet the new baby animals as they try out their young legs. Mothers are admitted free when accompanied by a child. Parents, children and grandparents are encouraged to enjoy this event together.

## Farm Animal Weekend

*Saturday & Sunday, June 1 - 2, 2013*

With spring planting just about completed, the Kelley farmers turn their attention to the livestock. June means time to shear the sheep. Experience the challenges of hand-sheering or helping to get the sheep out of their "winter coats." Toby and Coulter, the farm's oxen, will be finishing up field work. Meet the spring newborns, and discover how farm animals were used long ago and the different ways they are used today. Take time to explore the nature trails.

## Father's Day Weekend

*Saturday & Sunday, June 15 - 16, 2013*

**DADS GET IN FREE!** Join the Kelley Farm staff as they work on typical 19th-century "fancy chores" like building feed boxes, repairing equipment and fences, and caring for the livestock. Fathers are admitted free when accompanied by a child.

## Children's Day at the Kelley Farm

*Wednesday, June 26, 2013*

Join in the chores that children did on farms more than 100 years ago like helping with the laundry, gardening, animal care and field work. Then take part in 19th century games, such as Townball, Grandmother's Footsteps and Hoops and Sticks.



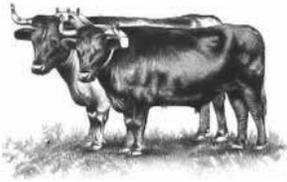
# NEW FRIENDS WEBSITE COMING SOON

[FriendsOfTheKelleyFarm.org](http://FriendsOfTheKelleyFarm.org)

The Friends of the Kelley Farm are partnering with Smitty's Workshop to create a new Friends website. The new site will have an updated look and will be mobile-friendly. It will allow the Friends to more-dynamically tell their story and that of the Kelley Farm—including more information about The Grange and the many initiatives we support. The site will also provide more information to visitors interested in getting more involved with the Friends and The Farm.



Smitty's Workshop is an Elk River communications, marketing and design firm owned by Friends of The Farm members Aaron and Anne Smith. To learn more visit [www.SmittyPages.com](http://www.SmittyPages.com)



## FRIENDS OF THE KELLEY FARM

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# JOIN US!

## Spring Work Day at The Farm

Saturday, April 13, 2013 • 9am-4pm

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Saturday, April 13th will be a combined work day at the Kelley Farm. Along with the Friends of the Kelley Farm, the Grange Great Lakes Regional Leaders Conference attendees - hosted by the MN State Grange - will be making curtains, cleaning, washing windows, and doing some building projects. The conference attendees (usually 30-60 people) are Grange members from the states of Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. The conference attendees

are very excited to be coming to Minnesota and to be able to help at the Kelley Farm. *All Friends of the Kelley Farm are encouraged to come. 9am-4pm.*



*Friends of the Kelley Farm mend fences at last year's Spring Work Day.*

## 2012 Raffle Winners

We are proud to announce the Raffle Winners from our 2012 Raffle, selected at our Annual Meeting last November.

*Arnie Engstrom of Elk River and Member of the Friends of the Kelley Farm, chose the Kelley Farm-raised hog.*

*Raymond Loek of Hampton chose the Passes to the Waterpark and overnight stay at the Holiday Inn in Otsego.*

*Kerry Stukorborg of Big Lake received the hand-made quilt. Kerry added that this was "the first time she has ever won anything!"*

All the winning tickets were sold during visits to the Kelley Farm. Our Raffle earned \$1,102.47 in 2012.

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THANKS  
TO ALL WHO  
BOUGHT &  
SOLD  
TICKETS,  
DONATED  
TIME  
AND HELPED  
WITH ANOTHER  
SUCCESSFUL  
RAFFLE!

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