

Jubilee Farm of Huntington, VT Presents:

4th Annual Tractor Safety, Operation, and Maintenance Workshop

With Shane J. LaBrake, Agricultural Consultant & Trainer

Saturday, October 3rd and Sunday, October 4th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Join host Sarah Jane Williamson, owner and operator of Jubilee Farm in Huntington, VT, and presenter Shane J. LaBrake of Accokeek, MD, for this informative and hands-on workshop. After three consecutive years of NOFA-VT sponsorship, we are pleased to offer this workshop again in 2009 of our own initiative.

On Saturday, we'll review everything from tractor lingo to safe and proper operating procedures, along with the basic principles of the internal combustion engine. In addition to a wide array of informative literature, hand-outs and slides, Shane will have an assortment of engine parts on hand to enhance the presentation. We will compare and contrast the operating principles of three different tractors, as well as review the differences between diesel and gasoline engines. We'll do a thorough review of all of the controls, and give special attention to attaching implements with the three-point hitch. For those who are interested and inclined, Sarah Jane will graciously permit attendees to practice driving tractors around the farm, under our cautious watch and instruction.

On Sunday, we'll review a number of routine maintenance checks, as well as perform the recommended annual maintenance tasks on each of the three tractors – a late-40s Farmall Cub, a circa 1950 Allis Chalmers Model G, and a mid-90s Kubota L4200 with 4WD and a front-end loader. Under Shane's supervision and encouragement, participants will change the engine oil and filter on all three tractors, inspect and change the coolant as needed, change or clean fuel filters and air filters, change spark plugs as needed, check and change the hydraulic/transmission fluid, grease all of the grease fittings and more. This is dirty, hands-on work; wear appropriate clothing. Sturdy footwear (no open-toed sandals), and gloves are highly recommended. Shane has offered this workshop over 20 times in NY, VT, ME, PA, VA and MD. Participants routinely offer high marks for his unique presentation that fosters knowledge acquisition and personal empowerment. Shane readily draws on over 20 years of experience in farming, and peppers his instruction with many amusing and insightful anecdotes. From his personal experience, he knows both the challenges and rewards that come with gaining competency in the realm of tractor operation and maintenance. He is also a rabid believer in safe operation, and stresses safety and awareness throughout the two-day course.

Due to the hands-on and intensive nature of this workshop, attendance is limited to 10 participants. This is offered as a two-day course, and each day's offering complements and informs the other. Participants will be required to sign a waiver releasing Shane LaBrake and Sarah Jane Williamson of any liability, and acknowledging the inherent risk of the activity.

The workshop registration includes a catered lunch each day made with local and organic ingredients. Participants are welcome to camp at the farm in their own tent or camper, and Sarah Jane can offer details on a local Bed & Breakfast. Huntington is located in beautiful North-Central VT, and participants should be prepared for cool and exhilarating autumn temperatures.

Two-day Workshop Fee: \$120.00 – includes a catered lunch each day!

To register, send registration form and payment (check only) by **Friday, September 25th**

to: Shane J. LaBrake, 703 Bryan Point Road Accokeek, MD 20607

Questions on workshop content: contact Shane at sjlabrake@verizon.net or call 301.203.8954.

Questions on local B&Bs and about Huntington, VT: contact Sarah Jane at jubileefarm@gmavt.net or call 802.434.5667.

Directions to Jubilee Farm (4582 Main Rd. Huntington)

From I-89: Take exit 11, turn east on rte. 2 towards Richmond (about 2 miles). At traffic light turn right onto Bridge Street. Follow Bridge St. through town, over bridge, and stay on it (veering right after bridge). Stay on this road veering right up the hill coming out of the town of Huntington. Jubilee Farm is 6.5 miles from traffic light in Richmond. Farm sign and big white barn on left.

From Bristol: Take 116/17 north out of Bristol then turn right on 17. After about 7 miles turn left on Gore Rd. Jubilee Farm will be about six miles ahead: big white barn and farm sign on right.

2009 Jubilee Farm Tractor Workshop Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone: _____

Please tell us briefly about your relevant farming/tractor experience:

Comments from Shane's previous workshops at Jubilee Farm:

"Sarah Jane is great, her farm is beautiful, and she has a great mix of tractors (and is very gracious about letting folks work on them.)"

"Shane was great at having a broad structure with plenty of room to discuss and cover what people were interested in."

"Shane was an excellent presenter – did a great job with the workshop."

"Great!!! Job Shane. You took a potentially complicated topic and made it easy to grasp and understand."

"Shane was a fabulous presenter. He did a masterful job of managing a large group with varied skill-experience. I felt – suspected – that he possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience that could be utilized in any number of ways."

From a workshop at Quail Hill Farm on Long Island, NY:

"... we had a community there for two days – something that is missing in my métier (except for maybe back in art school). It was vitamins for the spirit. So the way the class was taught and your understanding, patience and knowledge – also basic crowd control, and information imparting, were really classy..."

From a workshop in Maine:

I found the workshop really helpful. I was able to internalize the safety material in a manner that is simply not possible reading the manual. Indeed, the next day I had an opportunity to exercise my new knowledge. I was pulling the tractor out of the barn. The doors are eight feet high so there is about a foot of clearance over the roll-over bar at the back of the tractor. Suddenly the door of the garage lowered onto my back in front of the ROPS and the tractor was proceeding to rip the door out of its track. This was the moment of panic. How could the door have caught behind the ROPS? What to do? I heard Shane LaBrake's voice in my head, "Stop, set the brake, put the tractor in neutral, turn it off and size up the situation." I did so and got off the tractor. It turned out that the emergency door lowering cord had caught on a PTO chipper mounted on the back of the tractor and had pulled the door down. I released the cord and further studied the situation. The door was jammed in front of the ROPS. Back on the tractor, started it, backed up about two inches and the door went up. Problem solved.

I am deeply appreciative for MOFGA running the tractor safety class. If I hear ever the tractor referred to again as a "toy" my response will be, "Yes, a toy that can kill." Safety first is now in my consciousness.