



www.dreibelbisfarm.org

January Newsletter

Ice Harvesting — Saturday, February 4, 2023

What are you doing on the first Saturday of February? Why not get a little mid-winter exercise in the great outdoors? How about celebrating and learning a bit about old-time Pennsylvania German wintertime farm work? Ice would be harvested from frozen waterways and carefully stored in thick-walled stone ice houses, where it would last into the summer months. Having ice on hand allowed our ancestors to preserve a variety of foods and was crucial in cooling fresh milk in warmer weather. Old Jake Dreibelbis told us that cutting the ice into blocks and carting it to the nearby ice house on the property was the hardest work he did all year.

On Saturday, February 4th at 2:00 p.m., the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society will host our ninth annual ice harvesting at the historic farm outside Virginville. Some of our recent winters have been down-right frigid, others were positively spring-like. We're hoping a blast of intense cold will give our ice pond a nice solid surface and glaze our lanes for horse-drawn wagon rides. Even though we can't guarantee that our crew can offer another real demonstration of cutting and harvesting ice blocks from the ice pond, we'll do as much as Mother Nature allows. We'll explain how ice was hauled to and loaded in the ice house and give a folks a good look at the antique tools involved. Come out and learn how to cut and haul some ice. Warm yourself at the bonfire and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or home-made soup, available for purchase. We'll again have a team of draft horses to provide winter-time wagon rides, too! The farm grounds and nature trail will be open to the public. The event is free to the public and only blizzard conditions or pouring rain will cancel. If you have any weather-related questions, contact Janine Dreibelbis at 610-451-1193.



Depending on the weather, we'll offer horse-drawn wagon or sleigh rides for a small fee.

The Historic Dreibelbis Farm is located on Route 143 south of the village of Virginville. GPS Address: 356 Hard Hill Road, Hamburg, PA. Our fields will have mud or ice. Attendees should dress for the weather and be prepared to walk on icy or sloppy, unpaved farm lanes.



Glimpses of Past Ice Harvests



Save the Date:

Annual Farm Festival

Saturday, August 26

The Ice Harvest Demonstration is the first of several 2023 events hosted by the DFHS to fulfill our mission to preserve and protect the historic Dreibelbis farm and to make it available to the public for educational, historical, and environmental purposes. Our next winter season event is our *"Duck Walk"* along the Maiden Creek, on Sunday afternoon, March 5th when we'll restock wood duck nesting boxes.

For more information visit www.Dreibelbisfarm.org, "Historic Dreibelbis Farm" on Facebook or contact Mark Dreibelbis at (610) 488-7896.