



BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM

DRAFT ANIMAL CELEBRATION:

COMMON DRAFT ANIMAL WORDS AND TERMS

Working steer: a castrated bull under the age of four years training to work.

Ox: a working steer becomes an ox when it reaches four years of age.

Bull: male cow capable of producing offspring.

Draft animal: an animal trained to do work, specifically to pull heavy loads.

Farrier: a person who trims and shoes animal hooves.

Teamster: a person who drives and trains the draft animals.

Steer and ox commands:

- “Get up” – Go
- “Whoa” – Stop
- “Back” – Back up
- “Gee” – Turn right
- “Haw” – Turn left

Stone boat: a type of sled used to remove stones from fields.

Yoke: a wooden beam used to join two steers or oxen to a piece of equipment. Sometimes a single yoke is used to hook a single steer or ox to equipment.



A single yoke

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Bow: a wooden “U” shaped piece of wood that goes under working steers and oxen necks to attach them to the yoke beam.

Goad: a long stick used by the teamster to direct teams of steers and oxen.

Harness: a set of straps and parts for driving a team of draft horses.

Neck collar: part of the harness, the collar is a padded piece that goes around horse’s neck.

Harrow: an implement used to smooth soil after plowing.

Combine: an implement used to harvest and separate grain from the rest of the plant.

Thresher: a piece of equipment that separates grain seeds from stalks and husks.

Plow: a tool used to turn over soil in preparation of planting.



A draft horse neck collar



A team of draft horses plowing a field.