Are you ready to get your hands dirty working with cattle? Then enlist for Farmers’ Boot Camp! The workshop is for any conference attendee at any level of experience, including no experience at all.

Cattle dominated our early New England landscape, shaping it into what it was and still is today. Put down your farmers’ journals, pick up your milk pails and goads, and learn the basics of working with and around cattle, hands on. We will be offering three tracks, and participants will be invited to move among them to best suit their interests and needs.

- **DAIRYING**
  Learn to milk a cow, process fresh milk, and make a hard cheese using rennet and natural bacteria.
  *Victoria Haynes, Coordinator of Households and Foodways at Old Sturbridge Village.*

- **WORKING CATTLE**
  Learn about selecting, raising and training oxen, and how to put their strength to good use ploughing, harrowing, skidding and carting.
  *Dave Hruska, Coordinator of Agriculture at Old Sturbridge Village.*

- **HAYMAKING**
  Learn how to set up and sharpen scythes, mow and dry hay, and build a square load on an ox cart to bring it back to the barn.
  *Joe Schott, Farm Director at Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum.*

This is a hands-on experience. Dress appropriately! Hats, sturdy shoes, and longsleeves and trousers are suggested; we will be working both outside in the hot sun and indoors next to a fire. The workshop is limited to 18 participants on a first-come, first-served basis, so register early!