

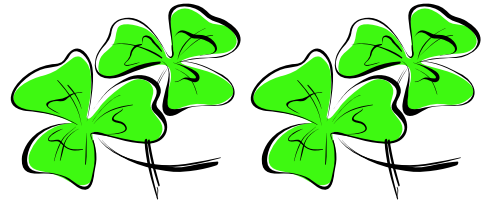
Next Regular Meeting February 18, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at Francis Farm

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Hello 2009. Let's make this another successful year for NEATTA!

Good News for the Pullers, we (and Francis Farm) can move forward and continue to hold our Pulls (with a unanimous vote from the Zoning Board of Appeals). A good showing of NEATTA members attended the ZBA meeting to support the club and Ken Foley of Francis Farm. Our lawyer Luke Travis represented us, and Don Leffort presented an overview of the club and its goals, and others in attendance (not all speakers were members) spoke in support of the pulls and the club and Francis Farm.

Speaking of the Pulls, thank you to Frank Kowsic for all the work he did on the transfer sled. Much bull work was done by a group of members just to extricate the used piece from a Swansea yard. Then it was up to Frank to unload it at his home and make all of the repairs to make it operational. The cost of materials to repair it is \$484.67. And thank you to Richie Lemieux for the foresight to locate a set of old bleachers and tear them down and build them up to look brand new. Manny Veader and Pete Santos lent a hand with the sanding, and Richie took care of the rest of the complete restoration. Donations of certain materials came from Joe Silvia, Ken Foley, Al Viera and John Skurchak. Other materials were purchased for a total of \$606.54. You will be amazed to see and actually sit on these bleachers while watching the tractor pulls. And the 2 pulling tracks have been moved to the back of the parking lot, where new tracks have been built. Workers included Richie Lemieux, David Carpenter, and Gil Larrabee along with Foley equipment fueled and operated by Keith, Ken, Jr., and Kevin Foley. Still needed is some 4 foot chain link fencing. Plans are under way for a bulletin board, shed for the scale operator and registration booth. When constructing all items, the safety of the pullers and attendees was always a major driving force. New rules are being developed for both the garden tractor pulling and the farm tractor pulling.

The future looks good for Tractor Pulling!!!



#### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Ham and Bean Supper and Raffle - March 14, 2009 - 6:00 P.M. – Francis Farm  
Tickets    \$Adults - \$8.00    -----Children 8 years and under - \$4.00

Menu:            Ham and Beans, Coleslaw, Applesauce, Bread, Coffee/Punch,  
                         Ice Cream with Chocolate or Strawberry Sauce for Dessert

For the third year in a row, the club will hold this fun(d)raiser, with an expected 200 attendees. (Last year we served 188.) Tickets will be sold at the February meeting or Call 508 222-7109 (Bev).

Raffle prizes will be needed, so here is your chance to help the club. Perhaps you could ask a local business for some small donation to our raffle, if you can't give one yourself.

We plan to have a 50/50 raffle, also. We have two people lined up who do the cooking, but we will need several servers and also some volunteers to clean up afterwards.

Everyone seems to enjoy the night out in the winter. So treat your family!!

## NEATTA SPRING SHOW, SWAP MEET AND TRACTOR PULL

April 25 and 26, 2009 – Francis Farm, Rehoboth 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Swap meet will run for both days. Call 508 272-5474 or 508 222-7109 to rent 20' X 30' space. The Garden Tractor Pull will be held on April 25, Antique Tractor Pull on April 26.

Posters will be available at next meeting, and everyone is asked to post them in their town. We need more advertising to make the swap meet successful. If you have a local paper, we can give you a "statement" to run in your paper. And please spread the word. You are the best "advertiser" for the club. P.S. The fee to rent space will be very reasonable.

Update on CPR Classes – no date has been set for these yet.

**Safety Topic:** Tractors and Trailers need to have good brakes. Tragic accidents can happen with bad brakes. And use care when unloading tractors. Nationally, there have been a few serious accidents - unloading and towing.

Please check batteries on Carbon Monoxide Detectors and Smoke Alarms in your home and shop. And ALWAYS keep the area near a space heater clear of all matter and materials.

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October 3 and 4, 2009 Our Big Fall Show including the Edge & TA Northeast Regional Show and Meeting. Plans include our usual show and pulls, along with participation by local organizations with the theme "Autumn on a New England Farm. Vendors of farm related products will be invited to participate, also, for a small fee. A special evening dinner is planned with entertainment, as well as a working display of "Haying Equipment" from past to present on a nearby field. Parking for the event is planned at the Redway Plain, on Rte. 44, and people will be bused to Francis Farm. Please plan to help out on this two day event. It may seem early to list this, but we need everyone to pitch in to make this a success. Keep these two days open.

Feb.24, 2009, 6:00 PM at Francis Farm there will be a meeting for 2009 Big Fall Show Committee. If you are a part of this committee, and have been attending these meetings, please be sure to come. And if you were asked to look into something, bring your findings along. Gayle Abrams stressed the need for more advertising for this show and many more volunteers. Sign up sheets will be at all of the meetings.

Don't forget that we now have individual club flags for sale at \$20.00, and a gorgeous canvas bag with the embroidered club logo \$25.00. Both items are nicely presented and you would be proud to have one (or give one as a gift). Thanks to TJ Mello for his artistic work and Dave Auclair and his wife for their expertise.

Call 508 252-6296 to order these. Don Leffort will order jackets. (508 889-7798)



Photo shows the canvas bag.

The events calendar for 2009 is being prepared: If you would like to be a contact person for an event, please call Richie 508 252-3976. Remember that if you suggest an event, you will be in charge of finding out all details and making the arrangements, provide directions, etc., like last year.

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At the January meeting, the 50/50 Raffle was won by Ken Foley. Terry Jarvis won the Chocolate Covered Strawberries from Edible Arrangements donated by Paula Simmons. Richard Gingras won a Tractor Calendar donated by Dave Rawcliffe.

Tony Vacca received surprise recognition when Manny Veader presented him with a new red gas can at the end of the meeting.

Tony Vacca does a lot of creative things for the club, including recently making the new Barrel seen in this picture. We will proudly use it for all of our Raffles. Thanks, Tony.

We also thank Mario Pasqua of Pasqua Greenhouses, Warren for donating a poinsettia to our Christmas Party.

Thanks to Greg Abrams for delivering all the donated toys to the National Guard. It sounds like he showed up just when the Guard really needed the toys.



Much discussion has been made on what prizes to have for our annual raffle which takes place at the October Show. Richie Lemieux's Aunt Gert, is making a QUILT for the club. We also need more prizes, and suggestions have been a pedal tractor, rototiller, snow blower, a chain saw carving of a tractor, big screen TV, and other prizes related to children. Next month the board will make a recommendation to the members. It was generally agreed that better ways of marketing the tickets are needed as well as having prizes that are easily moved about.

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Membership dues (for April 1) will be collected at the Feb. 18 meeting. Edge & Ta, the national organization we have joined has notified us of a reduction in their dues/insurance fee. So for the coming year Individuals will pay \$18.00 (instead of \$19.00), and Family memberships will cost \$23.00, plus \$8.00 for each "additional participating member".

Edge & TA would like some of their money by March 15, so we will try to get as many renewed before that date. Please don't wait until the day of the Swap Meet to renew your membership.

You can mail the check, made out to NEATTA, to Margaret Veader, 16R Davis Street, Rehoboth, MA 02769. Be sure to include your name and address, and any change in phone number or e-mail address. (Or pay at the meeting.) Include names of additional members, also.

For \$18.00(individual) you will be joining 2 clubs, Neatta and EDGE & TA\* and you will be purchasing some insurance as well. It's a pretty good deal! You can learn about Edge & Ta by visiting the website.