



## Larch Hill Farm Belgian Draft Horses

Not only will Charlie, Carol and Chad Lent be entering their beautiful **Larch Hill Farm Belgian Draft Horses** in our parade, but they will be using these gentle giants from Belgium to offer **FREE wagon rides all weekend at the Oktoberfest, October 8-10, 2010!**

Charles W. Lent and Family have raised Belgian Draft horses on their farm,



located in Clermont, New York since 1987. Larch Hill Farm was formerly Spring Valley Farm (Floyd & Barbara Moore), the third longest running farm in New York State. The Lent's participated in the Oktoberfest with their team of Belgians back in 1988 and continued through the 1990's giving hayrides around the Lake. Their wagon carried approximately forty people, and their original team of George & Vic pulled that wagon for more than five hours per day for the

first several years. The next team up was Blaze & Claude who carried happy Oktoberfest passengers for the next few years.

To celebrate Germantown's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Birthday, Mark & Mike will be hitched to the Larch Hill Show Wagon, dressed in their best harness, to once again bring parents, children, teenagers, seniors and those who wish to enjoy a leisurely trip around Lake George South at Palatine Park.





A country blessed with fertile soil and abundant rainfall provides Belgian farmers with the excellent pastures and the hay and grain necessary to develop a heavy, powerful breed of horse. Today's Belgian is a big, powerful fellow that retains the drafty middle, a deep, strong foot, a lot of bone, the heavy muscling and amiable disposition possessed by the early Belgians. American breeders have developed a horse with far more style, particular in the head and neck, with more slope to both shoulder and pastern, and a good clean flat bone.

**Fact:** Belgians are the most direct lineal descendants of the "great horse" of medieval times, known as the Flanders Horse (after the region of Europe in which it originated) and had great influence on the development of other draft horse breeds: with its main use being a farm horse.



**Fact:** The modern Belgian, a massive horse, powerfully built and standing between 16.2 - 17 hands, is still a serious worker and has become a great wagon horse.

**Fact:** BELGIAN DRAFT HORSES OUTNUMBER ALL OTHER DRAFT BREEDS COMBINED IN THE UNITED STATES.

**Fact:** The Belgian is a versatile heavy draft horse with exceptional power: able to pull tremendous weights. The modern Belgian is still one of the strongest of the heavy breeds.

**Fact:** The most prized color is the chestnut or sorrel with white mane and tail, white stripe on the face and four white socks.

**Fact:** Though Belgians are still used for all manner of draft work, including plowing, logging, pulling carriages, hitches and sleighs, they have also become increasingly popular as show horses, gaming horses, and even as trail riding horses.

**Fact:** The Belgian is known for its kind temperament, and is easy to handle.