

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2004

Plow Day: Old-fashioned farming

Horse and mule power drag, disc and plow field at Spangler family farm



Kyle Rector keeps Tom and Jerry in the furrow as the pair of Belgium draft horses turn over soil Sunday at the 15th annual Plow Day at the Cal and Willo Spangler farm in Grawn. The 11-year-old horses are owned by Rector's grandfather Jim Briethaupt.

Herald photos by Garret Leiva



Bill Hoxie of Cedar works the field with his five-year-old Belgians Sassy and Ann as they pull an Amish crafted plow.



Above left: Teddy and Flag, a pair of crossbred Percheron and Morgan horses owned by Randy Weber of Buckley, take a well-deserved rest after pulling a vintage John Deere plow. Weber says that he also rides his horses, which are several hundred pounds lighter than most standard draft horses.



Spectators line the field near Hilltop Road to watch old-fashioned horse-powered farming. Horse teams performed plowing, discing and dragging in the field. Another highlight of Plow Day was an obstacle course that required the use of verbal commands and steady hands on the reins.

Above right: Kyle Rosa works a team of horses belonging to Tom Sears as spectators watch him work near the Spangler family barn. The Rosa family, including Kyle, Pete, Kole, Bill and Karen, annual brings their span of mules Dot and Dixie to participate in Plow Day.

TC HAPPENINGS

Things to do, places to go, people to see

Big Barn Bash

Rolling Centuries Farm will host the third annual Big Barn Bash featuring baby farm animals, crafts and plowing demonstrations from 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday on the Old State Hospital grounds. Horse drawn wagon rides will be available from 1 to 4 p.m. Proceeds benefit the effort to refurbish the barns.

Garden party

Celebrate the grand opening of the "Enabling" children's garden from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday at the Traverse Area District Library. The garden features six garden stations that are wheelchair accessible. Special tools are available for the wheelchair bound. For more information, call 932-8500