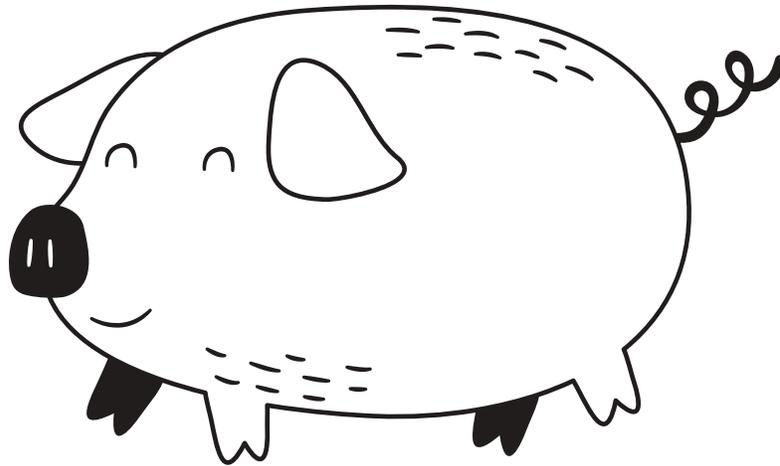


**Homeplace 1850s Working Farm  
Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area**

# **Farm Animal Companion**

**Fast Facts About Our Farm Animals**



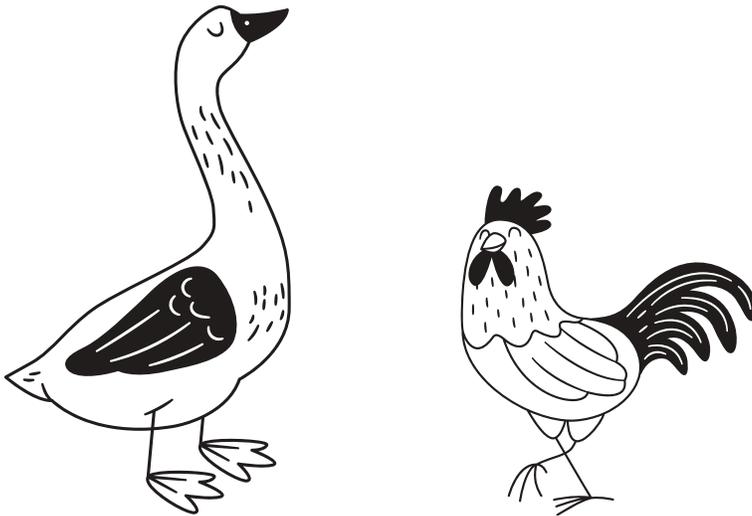
The animals at the Homeplace are heritage breeds of farm animals; they are breeds that were raised on farms in the past, but for various reasons they are not raised on farms today.

Many of these breeds are very close to becoming extinct. To learn more about heritage breeds go to Livestock Conservancy.

[www.livestockconservancy.org](http://www.livestockconservancy.org)

## Chickens | Breed Dominicker

- Free ranged chickens eat grass but also insects and small animals like snakes, frogs, and mice.
- They were primarily used for their eggs and meat.
- This breed of chicken can lay around 120 eggs a year.
- They prefer to sleep or 'roost' up high off the ground that protects them from being attacked while they sleep.
- The pattern and color of their feathers keep them hidden or 'camouflaged' from animals that would attack them (predators). They also use their sharp beaks and toenails to defend themselves. They can also fly to get away from predators

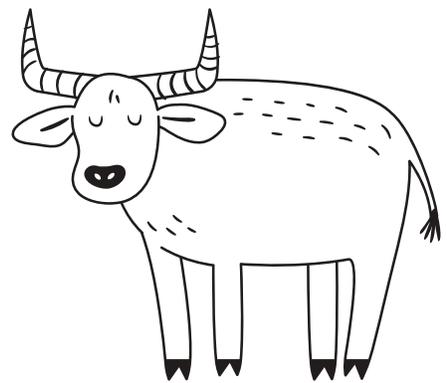


## Ducks | Breed Black Cayuga

- They are one of the very first truly American breeds of domesticated ducks from Cayuga County New York.
- Like the chickens these ducks were kept for their eggs and meat. They lay large green to almost black eggs. Ducks lay in nests on the ground. Cayugas are good at hiding their nests by burying them deep in the dirt and hiding their eggs deep in the nest and cover the nest with dirt and leaves. They lay far more than other breeds of duck, over 100 eggs a year.
- Also, like chickens, ducks eat insects and small animals like snakes, frogs, and mice.
- Ducks protect themselves from predators by swimming and flying, plus, their beaks are sharp.

## Mules | Breed Belgian

- Dan and Todd are the Homeplace mules. Their color is Sorrel/Red.
- A mule is a cross between a female horse and a male jack or donkey. Dan and Todd's mother was a Belgian draft horse (draft horse is bigger than a saddle horse and is used to plow and pull heavy wagons) and father was Mammoth Jack donkey (large breed of donkey).
- Mules are more "sure footed" than a horse (farmers did not have to worry about mules stepping on crops in the field).
- Mules are also more intelligent and will stop working when it gets too hot.
- Each mule weighs about 1300lbs. About 26 - 1st graders would equal the weight of one mule.
- Mules and horses are measured in hands. Dan and Todd are around 16 hands tall.
- A harness is put on the mules that attaches to a plow or wagon.



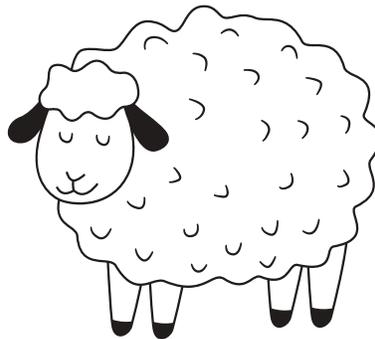
## Oxen | Breed Ayrshire

- Our oxen are named Ozzy (black nose), Otis (pink nose)
- Ozzy and Otis are Ayrshire breed which are native to Scotland. They came to the United States in the 1820s.
- An ox is ANY breed of cattle trained to work, male or female.
- Oxen are free grazing animals, meaning they eat grass on the go.
- Due to their size, oxen are very strong and are better at pulling heavier loads than a horse.
- An ox roughly weighs 2,500 pounds and can pull twice their weight.
- Oxen are teamed together and wear a yoke on their necks to work. As they work it may seem like they are pulling, but they are pushing against their yoke.
- Their horns help to hold the yoke in place.
- Though their size may be frightening to some, they are very gentle animals and enjoy showing off for people. The danger working around oxen is their head and horns that they swing around to chase away flies.
- Oxen can be compared to heavy tractors or large trucks on a modern farm. They are slow and not very maneuverable in tight places, but they are very strong.

# Sheep | Breeds Border Leicester, Romney,

## Long Wool Leicester

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For more worksheets for Homeschool Month check on our website.

[www.landbetweenthelakes.us/homeplace](http://www.landbetweenthelakes.us/homeplace)



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