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### **THE CLYDESDALES OF HOBBY KNOLL STABLES MAKE FIRST APPEARANCE AT THE BIG E**

The legacy of Clydesdales at The Big E will be upheld this year by Hobby Knoll Stables (HKS), of Duxbury, Mass., following the retirement of the popular Hallamore Clydesdales hitch, which was a staple on the fairgrounds for 50 years. You can witness the sheer size of these gentle giants daily in Farm-A-Rama and every evening at 6pm in The Big Parade, September 13-29, at the Fair in West Springfield, Mass.

In recent weeks, the Hallamore Clydesdales' former fairtime stables have been transformed from Hallamore's iconic orange to the sharp red and black branding of Hobby Knoll Stables.

Our new fairtime occupants will be moving in for the duration of the event on Thursday, September 12, and will make their debut to the public when gates open Friday morning. Fairgoers can greet the hitch from 10am-10pm daily in Farm-A-Rama, and watch them get washed, groomed and hitched for The Big Parade around 3pm between the back entrance of Farm-A-Rama and the Young Building.

"This has been a dream of Phil's for years," Andrea Anderson of Hobby Knoll Stables shared with Elizabeth Gourde of Eastern States Exposition while grinning at her husband, Phillip.

Phillip and Andrea Anderson are the proud owners of Hobby Knoll Stables, a family owned and operated farm that has been in business for more than 100 years. They have offered a horse-drawn carriage service for more than 20 years, frequent fairs and horse shows and host a multitude of community events themselves.

Phillip's father bought him his first team of horses when he was 10 years old and unwittingly began what would become a long legacy of draft horses. "I think [my father] was kind of living vicariously through me," Phillip reminisced.

"I grew up with horses in the Morgan world and I just fell into it," he continued. "I enjoyed the big ones and their attitude—how quiet they were, and how much fun they were to work around. And how much attention they grab!"

Hobby Knoll Stables hosts many animals: horses, cows, pigs, sheep, goats, chicken, turkeys and rabbits. However, when HKS is mobile, their traveling team includes Clydesdales Kramer, Ritz, Bridget, Levi, Nick, Thatcher, Carl and Harley.

At three years old, Harley is the youngest of the horses and she will be pulling alongside her mother, Bridget, as the first multigenerational duo on the team.

“It’s a big undertaking,” Andrea continued. “We have huge shoes to fill, and we are aware of that. We are going to try our hardest and do our best.”

HKS Clydesdales will be joined by the Budweiser Clydesdales, operated by Anheuser-Buch, at the Fair in 2025. The Budweiser Clydesdales have been participating at The Big E on a biannual rotation for three decades.

Eastern States Exposition will be honoring Hallamore, and owner Dennis Barry, of Barry Farms in Lakeville, Mass., for their friendship and contributions to The Big E for half a century, Saturday, September 28 at 3pm in Farm-A-Rama at The Big E.

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The Big E, brought to you by Eastern States Exposition, takes place September 13-29 in West Springfield, Mass. The Big E is the seventh largest fair in North America and is recognized as the largest event on the East Coast by attendance numbers. Advance discount tickets are now available at [TheBigE.com](http://TheBigE.com) and select Rocky’s Ace Hardware locations. Visit the website for a full schedule of events and check out the fairtime excitement on social media!