

# Hickory Knoll Driving Trial

**Hickory Knoll Farm & Frostwood Farm  
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Hickory Knoll Farm will again bring an American Driving Society show to Fitchburg. The Hickory Knoll Driving Trial will be held July 21 and 22, 2007. The 2006 event filled all available competitor spots with drivers from five states and had a waiting list.

Driving trial competitors compete in three disciplines. They start Saturday with driven dressage in which the horse, carriage and driver perform tests to exhibit the level of training of the driving horse. The horses are judged on flexibility, impulsion, and submission as they are driven in the patterns described by each test. Dressage is scored by judging each movement on a zero to ten scale.

The horses are then driven at speed through a cones course where they are directed through narrow obstacles formed by cones with balls resting to top of them. Each ball dislodged gains a penalty as the driver races to meet the specified time for the course.

The final test is a timed cross country drive in which the horses must cover ground quickly and drive through tight man made 'hazards' without missing a prescribed gate or knocking down obstacle elements. Each of the three tests is given a numeric score. The best score in each division becomes the champion. The levels offered in 2007 will be Training and Preliminary. Divisions will include single pony, single horse, pony pairs, horse pairs and tandem/four in hand.

The work is quite relaxed and you will have the opportunity to watch drivers do dressage and cones on Saturday, or on Sunday, navigate the cross-country course. We have positions open for scribes who write dressage scores or cones times, cone setters, Sunday timers, course observers and obstacle timers and observers. You need to bring only a chair. We will provide training and any items you need to man your position.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn a great deal about driving and meet some of the most pleasant horse people in the US.

Please email us at frei@chorus.net if you are willing to help.