

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Contact:
Shawn Hartley Hancock
Director of Marketing & Communications
Hancock Shaker Village
413.443-0188 X 213
shancock@hancockshakervillage.org or
simplyshawn1@aol.com

Images available upon request.

Hancock Shaker Village Celebrates Spring

Newborn chicks, ducks, lambs and piglets arrive

Children cozy up to the newborn animals

April 12 – May 4

Pittsfield, Mass.—Hancock Shaker Village opens for the season on April 12 with the popular three-week-long **Baby Animals on the Shaker Farm**. The popular interactive event runs daily through May 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the heart of the Village's 12th- annual celebration of baby animals is a lively display of newborn baby lambs, piglets, calves, goats, ducklings, and chicks in the Shaker Village's iconic 1826 Round Stone Barn and adjacent farm buildings. Admission is free for children ages 12 and under. Adult admission is \$18.

“There’s no better way to welcome spring than to re-dedicate ourselves to the land and living beings,” says Hancock Shaker Village President Linda Steigleder. “This event is a joyous tradition for families with small children, but grown-ups love it, too.”

During **Baby Animals on the Shaker Farm**, visitors meet and greet new livestock, participate in farm chores, and engage in Shaker-themed crafts like basket weaving, making and decorating seed packets, and weaving on a loom in the Village's Discovery Center.

The Shakers kept livestock from the late 1700s, when they founded the Village, up through the 1960s. The famous circular Shaker-built 1826 Round Stone Barn originally stabled 52 milk cows. Over the decades, this remarkable building has attracted millions of visitors, including such notables as authors Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville, who are reputed to have staged a footrace around the structure. Baby Animals features heritage breed animals raised by Hancock Shaker Village, as well as "guest" livestock from local farms and 4H clubs.

Behind-the-Scenes Farm Tours

Children and families can get up-close-and-personal with the animals on a special private guided tour, which includes access to the newborns, including the opportunity to hold and even bottle-feed them. The Behind-the-Scenes Farm Tour is available daily at 1 pm. On weekends and during the week of school vacation (April 21 to April 25) this special tour is run at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets are \$28 per person (\$25 for HSV Members), and include general admission to the Village for the day. Reservations are required. Visit www.hancockshakervillage.org, or call 413.443.0188 x100.

Special Days at Baby Animals

Pony Rides

Party Time Ponies will return to **Baby Animals on the Shaker Farm** from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays to offer rides on their warm, fuzzy, friendly ponies. Rides are \$5 (plus general admission, if applicable).

Music

On Saturday, April 19, hour-long performances by noted musician David Grover and his band will occur at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Sheep Shearing

April 26 and 27 is **Sheep Shearing Weekend at Baby Animals**. In addition to regular farm activities, Sheep Shearing Weekend will showcase the Village's Merino sheep as they get rid of their winter coats.

Special hands-on textile demonstrations and activities will be conducted by volunteers from three local spinning and weaving guilds.

For more information, call 800.817.1137 or visit www.hancockshakervillage.org.

About Hancock Shaker Village

An outdoor living-history museum, Hancock Shaker Village is situated on 750 acres of picturesque farm, field, and woodland in the bucolic Berkshires of Massachusetts, a few minutes from the city of Pittsfield. Hancock Shaker Village provides visitors with an authentic Shaker experience. The Village consists of 20 historic buildings, a working farm and garden (heirloom medicinal, herbal, flower and vegetable gardens), and houses 22,000 authentic Shaker artifacts (furniture, crafts, tools, and others). This National Historic Landmark depicts daily life at the Shakers' City of Peace throughout its 220 year history here in Hancock. Visit our website for more information about the Village and our programs, tours and workshops. Have lunch in the Village Harvest Café, and find unique gifts and souvenirs in the Village Store. An interactive Village audio tour is available in English, French, Italian, and German.

Hours, Admission, and Directions

Hancock Shaker Village is open daily to visitors from April 12 through November 2, 2014. Between April 12 and June 29, the Village is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Beginning June 30, hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Admission is free for Hancock Shaker Village members and for all children 12 and under (accompanied by an adult). Adult admission is \$18, and youth visitors aged 13 to 17 are \$8. Field trip visits are \$5 per student for self-guided tours and \$8 per student for guided tours.

Hancock Shaker Village is located on Route 20 in Pittsfield, Mass., just west of the junction of Routes 20 and 41. For GPS purposes, the Village is located at 34 Lebanon Mountain Rd., Hancock, Mass. 01237. Or, enter 1843 W. Housatonic St., Pittsfield, Mass, 01201, then proceed a half mile west on Route 20 to the entrance. More info: www.hancockshakervillage.org.