

Littleton Museum Illustrated Livestock Guide

1860's Farm:



Daniel



Colt



Blanche

Pigs were an important source of protein in the 1860s, even more popular than beef as it smoked well and was particularly flavorful. Pig's bristly hair was also used to make brushes, particularly toothbrushes. Interestingly, pigs are one of the few livestock animals that see in color. Our pigs are Berkshire, Hampshire and Kunekune (pronounced coony-coon) breeds, originally from Europe and New Zealand.



Ernest (Donkey)



Julie (Mule)

Equines (horses, donkeys & mules) were important parts of any farm. Horses were the primary mode of individual transportation until the early 20th century. Mules (half horse/half donkey) are typically stronger and smarter than horses and make excellent riding and working animals. Donkeys are sure-footed and excellent defenders of other animals; they are often put in with other livestock to protect them against coyotes and other predators.

Interestingly, donkeys are most closely related to zebras, and you can still see some stripes on their legs.

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Ford

Our oxen, Fitz and Ford are the real powerhouses on the farm. These animals are stronger than horses or mules, and possess a greater endurance than equines, though they travel much slower. Oxen were often the animals of choice used to pull wagons down the Santa Fe Trail. Our oxen are Milking Devons and are a rare European breed that was brought to America because the animals could pull plows or wagons, be used as beef cattle, or (for females) be used as dairy cattle.

NO IMAGE

Chloe (the cat)

Cats, though they are hard to get pictures of, play a special role on farms. They control the rodent population. Infestations of mice and rats can not only damage farmer's crops stored in their barn, but they can also spread disease and eat the family's supplies. So, while they weren't seen as pets until the early 20th century, cats have always been important to people.



"Fitz" Fitzgerald



Churros

Our sheep are both Churro and Merino breeds. The colored sheep that you see are the churros, and they come from New Mexico and were developed by the Navajo (Diné) people. The churros are independent and protective animals so they can survive in the Southwestern deserts. Their wool has been used to make beautiful rugs, blankets, and sometimes clothing.

Interestingly, churros can have as many as 4 horns on their head.

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1890's Farm:



Savannah (the cow)



Bud (the bull)

Dairy cattle have been important additions to any farm. Their milk and cream provide food for tables and can also be made into cheese. The cows that we have here are Jersey cows. The first registered herd of Jerseys was brought to Littleton by train for Judge Fred Bemis, whose house you saw on the 1890s farm. It was people like the Bemis' and Beers Sisters that made Littleton into a city known for its exceptional dairy products.



Gus

Goats, much like dairy cows, were kept for the milk and cream they produce. These animals were also typically used to trim down the weeds, when needed, and were wonderful companion animals for solitary milk cows.

NO IMAGE

Pearl (the cat)

Note: There are chickens, turkeys and sheep on the 1860s farm as well as chickens on the 1890s farm. We have not named these animals as they are primarily used for food or are sold to keep the genetic pool of our livestock diverse and healthy.