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## The Hoof Trimming Festival

As we all know, the holidays are a time for traditions, and at Branch Honey Farm our favorite homegrown holiday tradition is the Annual Hoof Trimming Festival. Every Friday after Thanksgiving, friends and family from near and far don their farm clothes and gather in our corrals to try their hand at this ancient task. The event has taken on a party vibe, and as one guest put it so eloquently... "You just haven't lived until you have a proper brunch cocktail and then go tackle a sheep and clip its toenails."



For anyone unfamiliar, hoof trimming is a routine part of livestock care, and is exactly what it sounds like. All hooved livestock

visit Branch Farm to have their hooves trimmed and to learn with others...

periodically need to have their hooves pruned back with clippers (basically heavy-duty scissors), or their hooves will grow too long and irritate or injure the animal. The problem, of course, is that our sheep don't want to have their hooves trimmed, so they must be subdued... and that's where things get interesting. The photos pretty much speak for themselves—as you'll see, it's a full-contact sport. We recently invested in a chute system to try to bring some order to the endeavor... but most of our trimmers went with the old school tackle-and-trim method.



The HTF is a great day outside with friends and family, and a day for folks to see and experience farm operations. We're proud to have friends, family and customers experience firsthand the work, care and yes... love... that we put into our flock. Many people understandably scratch their heads when they hear a small farmer say they love their livestock. but... we do.

This year's Festival included three generations of hoof trimmers from as far away as Boston, Oklahoma and California, and even included a flyover and wing-waggle by a pilot friend of one of the hoof trimming families. A huge thanks to everyone who came out, and a particular thank you to rookie hoof trimmer and expert photographer Alexis Jacqueline ([@studiojacqu](https://www.instagram.com/studiojacqu)) for the fabulous photos. We hope y'all had as much fun as we did.





And to hoof trimmers and non-trimmers alike... Happy New Year!  
We wish you a 2025 filled with friends, family, laughter and love.  
Thanks for coming along on this journey with us.



Happy New Year, and... Baaaaah!

Branch Honey Farm



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