

Annual Trail Ride for Draft Horse & Mule Club

by Jay Franzen

The South Central Iowa Draft Horse & Mule Association (SCIDHMA) hosts an annual trail ride for its members. The 2011 trail ride took place on Saturday, October 15, 2011, and was held on the farm of Jim Criswell, father of SCIDHMA president, Brad Criswell.

The ride got started mid morning and consisted of around seven miles of trail through a combination of open field, grassland, and dirt road surrounding the English River valley. Seven riders and six wagons and carts carrying a total of twenty-three people participated.

Everyone stopped at about the halfway

point for a sack lunch in a copse of trees overlooking the beautiful English River.

At the conclusion of the ride, after horses and mules were unsaddled and unharnessed, fed and watered, everyone gathered down by the house for a pot luck of snacks and deserts, and chili fixed by the Criswell family. All of the food was fantastic, but I believe the brownies brought by Wilbur Sheets took the blue ribbon. The conversation that accompanied the food was, as always, entertaining!

Those that stayed through the evening roasted hotdogs and marshmallows around the campfire. Larry Collins and Wilbur

Sheets camped at the farm Saturday night.

Early Sunday morning the remaining seven participants enjoyed an iron skillet breakfast cooked over the campfire, prepared by Larry and Wilbur. The first thing put on the skillet was bacon donated by Jim and Denise Chapman, and according to Joel Criswell, it was the best bacon he'd ever had.

Despite it being a little on the windy side, a good time was had by all. A special thanks to all that helped make the ride a success, especially Jim Criswell for the use of his farm.

