

## Farrier

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15th annual International Hoof-Care Summit, a four day event in Cincinnati.

For his work on horses he travels within a range between as east as Mahoning County, south as Midvale, north as Brimfield and west as Navarre. He does not specialize in any one breed and services every kind of horse, from mini to draft.

"I have been servicing some customers for over 20 years," said Foster. "It is nice to get to know the families and see their kids grow up. You will be shoe-

ing their entry into the fair and eventually be shoeing their kids' entry."

Foster explained that he works with veterinarians to meet the horses needs and can apply steel, aluminum, rubber and plastic shoes to the animal. He also explained there are different shoe types for various demands such as traction or speed.

"Shoeing and trimming horses does not harm the animal," said Foster. "They just don't like the smell the steam gives off when I heat up a shoe and match it to their hooves."

The basic process involves cleaning and trimming the horses hooves.



They are prone to getting hay, dirt and anything else caked in the hoof. The hoof is shaved down with rasps or buffering tools. After the shoe is heated and matched to the hoof, it is nailed on and clinchers are used to bend the nail and hold the shoe in place. There are several tools in a farriers kit.

Foster shoes horses every six to eight weeks. He lives on the farm where he owns 18 horses, some sheep and cattle. He breeds draft ponies and buys and trades horses on the side when he isn't shoeing horses. He also attends pony pulls in his free time.

"If I am not shoeing I am going to a pony pull," said Foster who pulls in the Central Ohio Draft Pony Pulling Club, LLC.

Foster lives with his wife Jackie, and children, Sam and Allie.

Above, an example of a horse hoof before (left) and after a a trimming. The dirty hoof is caked with the elements and are long while the trimmed one is clean and rounded off.

At right, Rick Foster sizes a heated horse shoe to see if it is a good fit. This does not harm the horse but most don't like the smell.



Thomas Clapper, the-review.com

Rick Foster stands with his 24-year-old North American spotted draft horse named King. Foster has been trimming hooves and shoeing horses since 1992.

*"As a farmer myself I understand the risks you face every day on your farming operation."*



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