



DAMARISCOTTA PUMPKINFEST & REGATTA

HAY BALE PUMPKINS – TIPS FOR PAINTING GIANT HAY BALES

Welcome to the unconventional artistic 'family' of HAY BALE ARTISTS! Very few artists attempt these monsters, but those who do have a creative experience of a lifetime, as they transform cattle fodder into art! What follows are some tips intended to make the challenge easier, based on experienced artists who have painted hay bales in past years for Damariscotta Pumpkinfest:

Plastic-wrapped hay bales on pallets are available to the artists in late September, on the Friday which is one week before the Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Offs. You will have just six days to complete your masterpiece.

Painting takes place inside the Reilly Well Drilling Inc. warehouse located at 679 Bristol Road (Highway 130) behind D&M Marine. The warehouse is available for the artist's use, day & night.

Plan on spending 1-2 hours to apply the primer coat, plus a drying time of 2-4 hours depending on the weather & temperature/humidity.

Be prepared to clean-off, dry, and possibly patch the hay bale prior to painting. The bale may be wet, damp & dirty and may have holes or tears in the plastic cover. Duct tape is a good fix for tears, and takes the paint well. Remember to bring your own water, trash bags, towels or paper towels as needed.

Acrylic paint works best, and any size OLD brushes will work depending on design-details. Acrylic spray paint [such as Montana Gold Acrylic] also can be used. N.C. Hunt Lumber is familiar with hay bale painter's needs, and can guide you according to your specific design requirements.

The best base coat is eggshell latex house paint, which requires a minimum of two coats. Use of a paint roller and flat-pan, plus a large brush, works best for this stage.

As for design, you are not limited to painting a jack-o-lantern, but the hay bale does represent a giant pumpkin and even comes with a green Styrofoam stem for the top. You may want to consider your specific hay bale's eventual location, and nod towards that sponsoring-company's logo/theme/product/etc. If possible, the design should include text, such as "Damariscotta Pumpkinfest" and/or the festival's dates, 'painted' onto the bale with a very wide tip permanent black marker.

Inspiration and photographs of past year's hay bales can be found on the Pumpkinfest web site: www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com under the "Pumpkin Art" tab.

Your hay bale will be collected & deployed to your sponsor's business by N.C. Hunt's flatbed-piggyback truck very early on the Friday morning before the weigh-offs, so please ensure that the paint is dry by Thursday night to prevent smudging as the Styrofoam "stems" & rebar are hammered into the bale.

DAMARISCOTTA PUMPKINFEST™
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