

## **“2009 – Year of the Ox”**

*By Diane Alba-Means*

Chinese New Year's is the most celebrated of the Chinese Holidays. January 26, 2009 marks the first day of the Year of the Ox, according to the Chinese lunar calendar, or Farmer's calendar as it is commonly known. This is the beginning of a 15 day celebration, often referred to as the Lantern Festival. In Chinese tradition, you should wear something new and preferably in red. Red symbolizes happy active energy and is used in combination with gold in decorations and clothing.

There are 12 celestial animals of the Chinese Zodiac each represent one of the 12 years in the Chinese lunar calendar system. The animals are used in a sequence, counting from Year 1,2,3, ... up to twelve and then starting over from year one. The order of the celestial animals is Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. The Ox is the second animal in the Chinese Zodiac. Your celestial animal is the Ox if you were born in 1901, 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1998, or 2009.

People born in the year of the Ox are often born to be leaders and are very self-assured. They are known for inspiring confidence in others and are generally patient and thoughtful. They are most compatible with those born in the year of the Snake and Rooster and have a secret friend in those born in the year of the Rat, which will help to give them support in the good years, and also in challenging times.

Famous people born in the Year of the Ox: Barack Obama, George Clooney, Walt Disney, Clark Gable, Richard Nixon, and Vincent Van Gogh.

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