

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Visit 38 WNC Farms and Gardens on the 2009 Family Farm Tour

ASHEVILLE, NC (May 13, 2009) – The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) The Family Farm Tour is your invitation to visit 38 farms and gardens throughout six counties in Western North Carolina. The region is home to agriculture of all kinds, ranging from century farms cultivated by the same family for generations, to certified organic farms, to urban gardens. Tour your choice of a wide selection of the area's most outstanding farms and gardens during The Family Farm Tour, June 27 and 28, 2009, from 1:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.

The tour is organized by Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP), and partner organizations.

Here's how it works: Get a farm tour map and button. Gather your friends, fill a car, choose the farms you want to visit, and plan a route. There are more than enough choices to fill a schedule for Saturday and Sunday.

Come with a cooler and your appetite. A variety of vegetables and fruits, trout, beef, pork, lamb, eggs, artisan cheeses, herbs, mushrooms, honey, preserves, and much more are available to sample or for sale. Products including yarn, soap, and crafts are offered as well.

Watch animals such as bison, llamas, baby lambs, and bunnies. See traditional skills in practice—and even try them out yourself—during demonstrations of border collie shepherding, outdoor apple butter making, milking, the maple syrup tapping process, and wool spinning. Or, learn about new ideas during a tour of renewable energy systems, see a hydroponics system, visit an edible landscape, and explore a garden labyrinth. Eat bread fresh from a wood fired oven and artisan ice cream, and stop for a picnic at one of the many beautiful farms along the way.

”Family farms are an essential part of our local economy and food system, as well as our agricultural heritage and rural landscape,” says Libby Hinsley, program coordinator for ASAP. “The Family Farm Tour is a great opportunity to connect with the people who grow our food, and learn about working farms.”

Purchase a button for admission for \$20 plus \$2 shipping at www.familyfarmtour.org, or see the website for stores and restaurants selling buttons. One button admits everyone in your car. You may also purchase buttons at farms on the day of the tour for \$25. If you only wish to visit one farm, pay \$10 on-site. Or, support the Family Farm Tour and get free admission by volunteering. Sign up to volunteer at www.familyfarmtour.org.

Farms on the tour:

Buncombe County

Blue Ridge Bison
Cane Creek Valley Farm
Flying Cloud Farm
Gladheart Farms
Good Fibrations Angora Goats
Hawk and Ivy
Hickory Nut Gap Farm
Highlander Farm
Imladris Farm
Long Branch Environmental Education Center
Martins Creek Homestead
Pearson Drive Community Garden
Pisgah View Peace Garden
Round Mountain Creamery
Venezia Dream Farm

Haywood County

Boyd Mountain Christmas Tree Farm
Rux Gardens
Sunburst Trout Company
The Ten Acre Garden

Henderson County

McConnell Farms

Madison County

Bee Tree Farm and Vineyard
Briar Rose Farm
East Fork Farm
Philosophy Farm
Spinning Spider Creamery
Sunset Valley Farm
Three Graces Dairy
Wake Robin Farm
Zimmerman Berry Farm

Transylvania County

Colonial Acres Nursery
Holly Hill Farm
Queen's Produce and Berry Farm

Yancey County

Arthur Morgan School
Firefly Farm
Maple Creek Farm
Mountain Farm
Mountain Gardens
Wellspring Farm

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project is organizing the tour. Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, Organic Growers School, Slow Food, and True Nature Country Fair are partners. Greenlife is the major sponsor. Blue Egg Design, Bouchon, Carolina Farm Credit, Earth Fare, Rosetta's Kitchen, Blue Ridge Food Venture's Winter Sun Farms, Early Girl Eatery, Fifth Season Gardening Company, The Lobster Trap, Tomato Jam Café, and West End Bakery are also sponsors. Additional support comes from an award from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

ABOUT THE APPALACHIAN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT

ASAP is helping to rebuild the local economy, preserve rural land and heritage, encourage sustainable agricultural practices, and increase access to fresher, healthier foods. We work to keep farmers farming and to reconnect people with their food. We involve businesses, shoppers, chefs, children, seniors, healthcare providers, teachers, and all community members in the local food movement.

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