



PRESERVING WORKING LANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

CONNECTICUT FARMLAND TRUST TO HOLD ELEVENTH CELEBRATION OF CONNECTICUT FARMS THIS SEPTEMBER

State's Largest Farmland Preservation Event Takes Place at Shelton's Jones Family Farms

Hartford, Connecticut July 5, 2011 – Connecticut's largest and oldest event to raise funds to save our state's dwindling amount of farmland will take place on Sunday, September 11th from 12:30p until 4p at Jones Family Farms in Shelton. The eleventh annual Celebration of Connecticut Farms will feature some of the state's best chefs preparing amazing dishes that highlight Connecticut grown ingredients. This year it will be co-hosted by Tony Award winning actress Christine Baranski, WNPR's Two Time Peabody Award winner Faith Middleton, and celebrity TV chef and author Jacques Pépin.

“Since 2001, the Celebration has raised hundreds-of-thousands of dollars that have been used to help the Connecticut Farmland Trust continue its work to prevent farms from being lost to development. It is our largest fundraiser and greatly raises public awareness of the contribution that our state's working farmland provides to our economy and quality of life,” says Dawn Adiletta, Interim Executive Director of the Connecticut Farmland Trust. “This is the must-attend event for anyone serious about wonderful cuisine and the freshness that only locally raised foods can provide. It continues to sell out and be packed with wonderful restaurants, wineries, breweries and other food-related offerings year after year and has become the focal point of Connecticut's foodie calendar.”

For those unfamiliar with the Celebration, it might come as a surprise to find out how much Connecticut farms produce. There are many amazing items from fresh vegetables to fruits, meats, seafood, dairy and wines. These farm fresh products are then given to some of the state's best chefs who transform them into dishes that would be at home at any four star restaurant. One can easily spend the entire afternoon grazing from table to table, eating samples of foods ranging from organic

pizzas to goat cheeses, pork to beef dishes. Then they can walk over to another table for a glass of award winning chardonnay, cabernet franc, or local craft-brewed beer to wash it all down.

“Although we move the event each year to a different farm in the state, and attract new friends, we continue to see familiar faces make the drive to wherever it takes place,” says Adiletta. “This year we’re delighted to be hosted by the Jones Family Farms in Shelton. They were our first home in 2001 and owner Terry Jones is a passionate voice for farmland preservation. His farm contributes to our state’s agricultural heritage by producing strawberries, blueberries, pumpkins, Christmas trees and fantastic wines and will be the perfect setting for this year’s event.”

Tickets for the 2011 Celebration of Connecticut Farms are \$150 per person (\$75 is a tax-deductible donation). In addition to the delicious food and drink, the Celebration will include musical entertainment by Bone Dry, a silent auction, and farm tours. To purchase tickets and for a list of participating chefs, restaurants, wineries, breweries and distilleries, visit www.CelebrationOfCTFarms.org.

About the Connecticut Farmland Trust

The Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) is a non-profit organization that was formed to preserve and protect Connecticut’s working lands through the acquisition of farm property and easements. The group works with farmers, landowners, land trusts, town officials and state agencies to protect agricultural land. Since its start, CFT has protected nearly 2,100 acres of farmland on 26 family farms, assisted partners in the preservation of over 800 additional acres, and has become the state's leading private resource on farmland conservation.

About Jones Family Farms

For over 150 years, the Jones family has been working the lands on their farm in Shelton, Connecticut. Today their 400-acre farm offers one of the finest harvest-your-own picking experiences in the area. Generation after generation of farm guests visit the farm each year - not only to savor the delicious strawberries or to find the perfect Christmas tree, but to enjoy time with their families while experiencing the rustic beauty of the farm. For more information visit www.JonesFamilyFarms.com.

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