Partnerships for Promoting Farm & Market Tourism

Erin Buckwalter, NOFA-Vermont
Vermont at a glance

- ~7300 Farms
- ~75 summer markets, 18 winter markets
- Major metro areas
  - Boston (3.5 hours)
  - New York (6 hours)
  - Montreal (2 hours)
- Dairy represents about 72% of VT’s agricultural economy!
Council of Agriculture Producer Associations
Department of Tourism & Marketing

SHOP FARMERS MARKETS
Check out all of the farmers markets that are taking place during your visit. It's an easy way to eat healthy and support local artisans and food producers.

DIG IN VT
Enjoy more than 400 Vermont food and farm experiences, including farmers' markets, farm stands and agritourism trails and tours at DigInVT.
Farmer Correspondence Program

March 2010
Dear Students,

It really feels like spring is right around the corner with the greenhouses full of young plants making everything smell wonderful. I have LOTS of perennials just about to bloom and sweet smelling herbs and baby vegetable plants as well. Some of you are planting marigolds this month. I am also.

You asked the names of my two cats. They are sisters Madison and Tessa. Here is a portrait of Tessa in the perennials taken by my son Will.

One of the many things we do here at Four Springs Farm is grow fruit. The trees and bushes are still very young except for the volunteers that were here when I bought the farm. These grow in the fencerows between fields. It has been fun to discover what things are here that are good to eat. They include: Wild strawberries, blackberries, lots of kinds of wild apples, elderberries, high bush cranberries I call Royalton Cranberries (these are not even real cranberries but taste good made into jelly), chokecherries, wild grapes and a few raspberries and black raspberries. I planted other fruits here: apples, plums, sour cherries, pears, black and red raspberries, red and black currents, strawberries and rhubarb. This year I am going to plant blackberries, blueberries, northern kiwifruits and grapes. In the garden each year we grow cantaloupe, watermelon, and ground cherries. I bet you can tell I love fruit.

Some of these we simply pick and eat and others aren’t very good unless we cook them, or add sugar or both. Rhubarb and chokecherries are very sour. Raspberries are perfect just like they are. It’s hard to pass the bushes without eating a few. We make a lot of preserves and jellies and use the fruit in pies and other baked goods. Do you have a favorite? I have trouble deciding such a thing but mine might be plums and black raspberries.

This is the time of year to prune the fruit trees. We cut away dead branches, extra branches from last year’s growth and ones to help the tree grow in the best shape to keep it strong when it bears fruit. It’s a nice thing to do outside on the sunny warm days that start to happen this month.

The farm has about twenty families who are members of the farm and get fruit, veggies and eggs from us from June until Halloween. These families are signing up now to get a basket of food each week. It’s nice to know who the people are that are going to eat the food I grow. It is also good for them to know exactly where their food comes from. This program is called Community Supported Agriculture.

Some of you sent me letters. THANKS! I love to hear from you. I’ll try to answer your questions. The only animals on the farm now are chickens. I have 40 now but there will be 150 more of them in the summer, 35 turkeys and two pigs too, but I don’t have any cows.

I buy my seeds from companies that send me catalogs. They come through the mail. I grow so many kinds of plants I can’t tell you how many. I love peppers and grow 28 kinds of them plus nearly every vegetable you can think of that will grow in Vermont.

The farm is 70 acres. Does that mean anything to you? When I walk along one side of an acre I take about 100 steps. 40 of those acres are open fields with streams and fencerows between it all. I love living right here at the farm. It’s a very short walk for me to get to work! There are two greenhouses, (one is 24 feet wide and 60 feet long. The other one is 20 feet wide and 80 feet long) just a short walk down my driveway. Nearby are the barn and the fields. Being at home and at work at the same time is perfect for me. I like a life that mixes by work and the rest of my life all into one package.

Goodbye until May.

Aunt Jenny
Winter Cocktails

Some serious options for sipping by the fire this winter - Vermont cocktail recipes recommended by food producers across the state.

Learn More
Trails

With over 500 different food experiences listed on DigInVT, planning the perfect weekend or vacation may seem overwhelming. Fortunately, our trails group these experiences into different facets of Vermont food culture, so that you can spend less time planning your trip and more time enjoying it. Whether it’s cheese, maple, or wine you’re after, or simply a fun way to explore Vermont, you’ll find a trail that speaks to your interest. Or if you’re feeling adventurous, craft your own trail and leave it behind so others can follow in your footsteps!

Featured Trail

The Farm to Slope Trail (from Nordic to Alpine)

Contributed by: Vermont Fresh Network

Categories: Cheese, Eateries, Farm Visits, Food Markets, Inns & B&B’s, Maple Syrup

Region: East Central

Season: Winter
Taste the Upper Valley

Whether you are visiting or live here, support the vibrant local food system of the Upper Valley and get a unique taste of Vermont. Buy fresh produce at one of the half dozen farmers’ markets in the area, take a baking workshop at King Arthur Flour to learn how to make your own delicious baked goods, visit Billings Farm, a working dairy farm, or Cedar Circle Farm and learn about organic farming. Get an authentic experience of the Upper Valley from a food lover’s perspective.

Contributed by
Hartland Farmers’ Market

Category(s)
Breweries, Cheese, Farm Visits, Farmers Markets, Farmstands & U-Pick, Food Markets, Inn & B&B’s, Maple Syrup, Wineries & Distilleries, Classes & Workshops

Best Visited In
Spring, Summer, Winter, Fall

Billings Farm & Museum
Route 12N Woodstock, VT 05091
802-457-9300
http://www.billingsfarm.org

Get directions to this place »

Billings Farm & Museum is keeping alive the spirit and values of Vermont’s rural past. The farm dates back to 1871, when native Vermonter Frederick Billings set out to build a farm and forestry operation that would serve future generations on a model of wise stewardship. His farm flourished and today it is still a first-class working farm, operating with a museum of Vermont’s rural heritage.

Located ½ mile north of the village of Woodstock, VT.

Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center
357 Pavilion Road East Thetford, VT 05073
802-742-4337
http://www.cedarcirclefarm.org

Get directions to this place »
Middlebury Tasting Trail

Beer, wine, cider, & spirits in Middlebury, VT ...all within 5 miles!

On the trail, north to south:

**Lincoln Peak Vineyard**
Open Sat 11-5; M-F by chance or appt
142 River Rd
New Haven, VT 05472
(802) 388-7368
www.lincolnpakevineyard.com

**Woodchuck Cider**
Open Wed-Fri 11-6; Sat-Sun 11-5
1321 Exchange St
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-0700
www.woodchuck.com

**Stonecutters Spirits**
Open Thu-Fri 12-8; Sat 12-6; Sun 12-4
1197 Exchange St
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-3000
www.stonecuttersspirits.com

**Appalachian Gap**
Open Daily 1-5
88 Mainelli Rd
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 989-7362
www.appalachiangap.com
Hartland Farmers’ Market

153 Rt. 3
Hartland Public Library Fields
Hartland, VT 05048
603-252-1288
Fridays 4-7, June 3 - September 9, 2016

Category(s):
- Farmers Markets
- Open Farm Week

Part of the:
- Taste the Upper Valley

Best Visited in:
- Summer

Website: www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com
Email: hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com

The Hartland Farmers Market is a collection of local farmers and crafters coming together to sell their goods to the local people, supporting local economy and supplying the freshest possible farm grown items. You can find something for everyone at our market! Accepts EBT and Debit Cards.

Come visit the Hartland Farmers’ Market during Vermont Open Farm Week on Friday, August 19th! The Hartland Farmers’ Market invites you to participate in a "Love a Farmer Scavenger Hunt" in coordination with Vital Communities! This scavenger hunt is for all ages and will be a fun activity with questions that will engage kids with local food and farms (find a farmer, what is the name of their farm?, find a root you can eat, etc). Prizes will be awarded at the end! 4:00 - 7:00 pm
Open Farm Week
August 2016

Crop Mob at Maple Wind Farm

Garlic braiding at Last Resort Farm
NOFA\textit{vore} Socials
Farm & Bike Tours
Farm Dinners & Tastings

Photos: Grace Meyer
Hubs of Agritourism

- Billings Farm & Museum, Woodstock
- Northeast Kingdom Tasting Center, Newport
- Bread & Butter Farm, So. Burlington
- Shelburne Farms, Shelburne
Northeast Kingdom Tasting Center
Shelburne Farms

Photos: Shelburne Farms
Decision making matrix

• Revenue generating
• Generating community good will
• Meets the mission
Burlington Market’s 10 Things...
Buy Local Market, VT
Statehouse Lawn
Think outside of the box....

https://youtu.be/CimsENqI90g

....Farm to Ballet.
Questions?

Please be in touch:
-erin@nofavt.org or
-802-434-4122

THANK YOU!