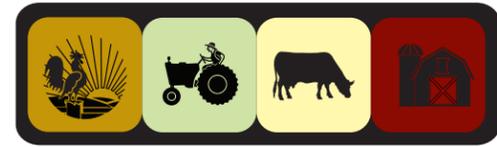


CATSKILLS FARMLINK LAUNCHES ONLINE LAND RESOURCES ACCESS

Beginning this fall, Catskills Farmlink (www.catskillsfarmlink.org) will provide the mechanism for connecting Catskills land with those interested in farming it. The site is slated to launch in early October.

Whether you are a beginning farmer looking to transition to independent farm management, an existing farmer looking to acquire or access more land, or a landowner interested in making your property available for agricultural use, Catskills Farmlink offers the resources and tools to begin your search.



Catskills FarmLink

www.catskillsfarmlink.org

This free web resource and posting site is designed to

- Maintain the regional working agricultural landscape by connecting farmers with underutilized land resources;
- Provide online access to statewide and regional resources that support the farming community;
- Offer land lease planning resources, landowners guides and "Come Farm with Us" contacts;
- List farmland available for rent/sale/share within the Catskills and New York City watershed;
- Compile opportunities like educational workshops, networking events, classifieds, internships, job offerings, equipment and livestock sales, and distribution partnership/sharing.

Catskills FarmLink is a collaborative effort of regional organizations committed to the future of agriculture in the region. These organization include The Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Farm Catskills, Farmhearts, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the Watershed Agricultural Council.

Visit www.catskillsfarmlink.org to explore land listings and classifieds or post your own, and to learn more about farming and land access in the region. Contact info@catskillsfarmlink.org or (914) 720-1020.



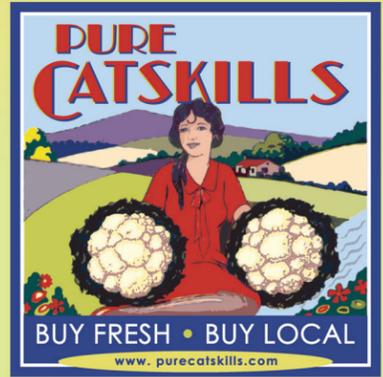
An early September tour at Old Chatham Shepherding Company in Columbia County gathered members of the Sheep & Goat Producer Group for an overview of the farm's milk, processing, and marketing efforts.



Digging into the luncheon spread at NACL Theater's Agrarian Acts on September 25th. Held in conjunction with NOFA's Potluck Across New York event.

PURE CATSKILLS

UPDATE FALL 2011



Mums and fall ornamentals at Schoharie Valley Farms in Schoharie.

It's been a challenging month for our region. Two flood events with widespread damage. We are proud to see our community come together to get through these difficult times and humbled by the ability of our members to get back to business so quickly.

What's inside:

- Upcoming events and opportunities
- Catskill FarmLink to launch this fall
- Farmer and small business flood relief resources
- Seasonal photos

Pure Catskills is a Buy Local campaign and economic initiative of the Watershed Agricultural Council. The WAC is funded by New York City Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Department of Agriculture and other sources. The WAC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

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www.nycwatershed.org

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FLOOD RELIEF RESOURCES

The impact of the recent flood events have been devastating for many in our region. A wide array of community groups and agencies have organized relief efforts of all kinds. Here we offer a list of efforts tailored to the small business owners and farmers that are members of Pure Catskills. Recognizing this list is far from complete, we encourage business members to contact their local USDA service center, Cornell Cooperative Extension office or county government center for the latest on general relief efforts.

FARMER RELIEF FUND

A farmer-led effort is underway with administrative support from the Watershed Agricultural Council. This fund will be offered to farmers across the Catskills region for lost income and damages not covered by existing state or federal programs. A brief application will be posted at www.purecatskills.com on October 1st. Funding will be distributed within the month following a review by a committee of local farmers and representatives. A second round of awards will be completed later in the year. Questions may be directed to Morgan George of Sherman Hill Farmstead at target409@hotmail.com or (607) 829-6886.

Nearly \$15,000 has been gathered so far. Donations are being accepted through the end of the calendar year. Checks may be made out to "WAC" with "Farmer Relief Fund" noted in the memo line and mailed to 44 West Street, Walton, NY 13856. Credit card donations are accepted online. Visit www.purecatskills.com to complete your payment.

Numerous Pure Catskills members and partners have collected donations for the fund at their fall events. Many thanks to The Ashokan Center, The Catskill Center for Conservation & Development, Catskill Harvest Market, Catskill Mountainkeeper, The Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship, The Hamden Inn, Heather Ridge Farm, Slow Food Upper Delaware River Valley and Story Laurie for their support!

HELP RSK FARM

A fund to aid in the recovery effort at Bob and Sandy Kiley's vegetable farm along the Schoharie Creek in Prat-

tsville has been set up by a number of members of business community. Flood waters removed eight to ten feet of top soil across the farm's lower field and 30 acres of crops were damaged. Visit www.help-the-farm.org or contact Bistro To Go/Blue Mountain Bistro in Kingston at (845) 340-9800 for more information.

BUSINESS GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM CWC

Businesses in the Catskill-Delaware Watershed that sustained structural damage to their buildings as a result of flooding from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee may receive assistance from a new program approved by the CWC Board of Directors September 13. The new, \$5 million 2011 Flood Recovery Grant Program of the Catskill Fund for the Future provides a maximum of \$30,000 to businesses for labor and materials needed to repair walls, floors, foundations, windows and fixed improvements damaged in the storms of Aug. 28 and Sept. 9.

The business portions of home-based companies are eligible for repair grants, but residences are not. Inventory losses, income loss, or expenses covered by insurance or other grants are not reimbursable. Non-profits, mobile home park operators or apartment building owners are not eligible for assistance, nor are multi-state franchises or chain stores.

Under program rules, the Supervisors of Watershed towns provide CWC with a list of businesses needing reconstruction help. CWC staff contacts affected businesses, determines eligibility, and completes paperwork, coordinating with flood insurance, participating agencies and other charities. Damaged businesses are advised to contact their Town Supervisor to be considered for this program.

TASTE OF THE CATSKILLS, OCTOBER 8 & 9, MAPLE SHADE FARM, DELHI

This event will be using the entertainment portion of the festival to raise awareness — and hopefully funds — for the Catskill Flood Relief Effort. The Delhi Fire Department will be on hand to collect donations from attendees. The funds collected will be distributed by the Delhi Fire Department to the most needed areas. Visit www.tasteofthecatskills.com or call (607) 746-8866 for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

TRAVEL TO EUROPE THIS MONTH WITH THE PICKLE PROJECT

The Pickle Project is seeking (on short notice) a farmer, grower or producer to accompany this project back to Ukraine in mid-October for two weeks to participate in a series of community conversations about food. All expenses paid; need flexible, engaging person. Want to know more? Contact Linda Norris at linda@riverhillpartners.com as soon as possible!

SALES OPPORTUNITY

A private school in New York City is looking to purchase apples, chicken, dairy and vegetables for student meals. Apples are sought in a wide array of varieties packed in 40-pound cases or a count size 140 to 120 – the smaller the better. Fifty to sixty cases per week to begin immediately. Please contact Andrew Flach in Hobart at andrew.flach@hatherleighpress.com or (607) 538-1092 for more details.

MEAT GOAT FARMING WORKSHOPS

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County is hosting a multi-week series at their offices in Hamden as well as on site at area farms. Content ranges from the basics to pasture management, animal nutrition, herd health, marketing and processing. Instructors include Dr. Tatiana Stanton of Cornell University, Dr. Cynthia Shelley of SUNY Cobleskill and Dr. Chris Camann, a local veterinarian. Programs are offered on Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm. Dates are September 30, October 14 and November 4 & 18. The entire series is offered at \$50 or \$15 per program. For full details, contact Janet Aldrich of CCE at (607) 865-6531 or jlal14@cornell.edu

STRATEGIC MARKETING WORKSHOP & CURBSIDE CONSULTING, OCTOBER 4TH

The final program of a multi-part marketing series will gather local experts for a review and critique of farm marketing materials. The event is offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in their offices at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty. Registration is \$10 per farm (up to two people). A follow-up session for the entire series will also be held on October 6th. Contact Trish Westenbroek at (845) 292-6180 or by email at paw34@cornell.edu to register. For more details on

the Strategic Marketing curriculum, visit the Cornell Small Farms Program online at www.smallfarms.cornell.edu

CATSKILLS CRAFT VISIT TO WILDFLOWER FARM, OCTOBER 3RD

The monthly meeting of this beginning farmer group will take place in Delhi, NY. For 60 years, the Janiszewski family has operated Wildflower Farm. Forced to diversify, the long-ago dairy farm has evolved into an experimentation site where traditional farm livestock and produce mingle with experimental endeavors. Wildflower Farm's visit will focus on the transition of the farm from dairy to tilapia, with a tour of its aquaculture center. For additional details, visit www.catskillscraft.org or call Sonia Janiszewski at (914) 720-1020.

PIG MOUNTAIN, OCTOBER 15TH IN JEFFERSONVILLE

Join Farmhearts as they create a Sullivan County tradition: four chefs, eight roast pigs, local wine and beer. Abundant veggie food too! This event serves as an upstate counterpart to a popular NYC-based event called Pig Island. Bridle Hill Farm in Jeffersonville will host. Tickets are \$35 and available at likepig.com Chefs include: Jimmy Carbone of Jimmy's no. 43, Heather Carlucci of Print Restaurant and Amanda Freitag of The Food Network. Local pigs, local produce, local fun. Produced by Food Karma Projects, charitable partner Farmhearts.



AG SUMMIT, November 28, Villa Roma Resort, Callicoon

This inaugural summit will offer farmers and agri-business representatives an opportunity to shape the future of the local agricultural industry. The day will include agriculture-focused workshops and discussions on business planning, funding and financing opportunities, production and marketing efforts. The goal of this event is to assess the strengths, challenges and opportunities facing our farms, identify key agricultural initiatives to be undertaken and develop a plan and timeline for action. Contact Jennifer Mall at the Sullivan County Government Center at (845) 807-0532 or Jennifer.Mall@co.sullivan.ny.us

