

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 23, 2021

Contact:

Lisa Duchene, Polished Oak Communications

For Centre County Farmland Trust

lisaduchewriter@gmail.com

814-222-4871

centrecountyfarmlandtrust@gmail.com

Via Facebook & Instagram:

@centrecountyfarmlandtrust

Link to Farm Routes 2021 Media Kit, including still images, digital map and video:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1INLj4VVY_aGUzOA3xd5_SGHHo5LIITgR?usp=sharing

Hed: New Bellefonte-Millheim “Farm Route” Country Driving Tour Launched

Dek: “Farm Routes” map-guides inspire exploration of Centre County’s farm corridors

Get Out the Map!

The Centre County Farmland Trust has published a new guide to 18 local food and drink stops along a 33-mile route from Bellefonte to Aaronsburg. The guide promotes locally grown food, locally produced drinks, farmers markets, preserved farms and restaurants sourcing ingredients from local farmers.

The “Ridges & Valleys” map-guide marks and describes each location along the stretch, connecting parts of Routes 550, 26, 64, 445 and 45. It is the third Farm Routes map-guide the Trust has published since 2020.

It joins the “Round Barn Route” — with 16 stops from Centre Hall to Pine Grove Mills along the Rt. 45 corridor — and the “Town & Country Route” of 14 stops around State College to Port Matilda, along Rts. 550 and 26.

Centre County residents and visitors are invited to use the maps for self-guided driving tours exploring this and nearby country corridors. All of the route stops are open to the public, so people can visit as much as they would like during the open hours of each stop. The guides make local food and drink, farmers markets, preserved land and agricultural heritage sites easy to find.

“Our farms and farmers are a vital and wonderful part of Centre County,” said Dan Guss, President of the Farmland Trust. “They provide us with fresh, nourishing local food, beautiful land and a rich heritage. We want to celebrate our rural life, and help connect our community

to people who work the land by encouraging people to use our map-guides to get out and explore our scenic country roads.”

People can drive all or any part of any of the three routes, as often as they like. The Trust offers prizes from July to October 31 for sharing experiences at any Farm Route stop on social media or checking in at stops using the “tassl” mobile app.

Some route stops offer promotions. IngleBean Coffee House, for example, is offering a free mug of coffee or cookie to visitors with maps.

Access the free digital maps through the Centre County Farmland Trust website (centrecountyfarmlandtrust.org), or access all of the route information through the tassl mobile app. Download tassl from the app store, then join Centre County Farmland Trust to check-in at stops.

Paper maps, also free, can be found at stops along the route and the new Happy Valley Visitors Center at the base of the Fraser Street parking garage in downtown State College and the Train Station in downtown Bellefonte.

The Trust launched Farm Routes maps and self-guided driving tours in 2020 as a COVID-safe rework of the annual Centre County Farm Tour, which was canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

The goal of both the Farm Tour and the Farm Routes self-guided driving tours is for the public to “Get to Know the Hands and Lands that Feed Us.”

The new Ridges & Valleys route includes:

- the Bellefonte Farmers Market,
- Good Intent Cider,
- Big Spring Spirits,
- Four Ways Pub & Eatery,
- Axemann Brewery,
- Bee Tree Berry Farm, (U-pick berries)
- Old Farmhouse Eatery & Brewery,
- Hublersburg Inn
- Goot Essa (handmade Amish cheese)
- Mark’s Custom Meats (butcher)
- Spring Bank Acres (farm store)
- Elk Creek Café + Aleworks
- IngleBean Coffee House & IngleBean Ice Cream
- Pisano Winery
- Triangle Organics (farm store)
- Patchwork Farm and Greenhouse
- Millheim Farmers’ Market

- Burkholder's Market

The map-guide also highlights several properties that have been preserved through the donation of conservation easements through the Farmland Trust. These private preserved farms and other working farms can be enjoyed from the road, advises the Trust.

Farms that are marked as route stops are farms with stores and are setup to welcome the public.

Farmland preservation, typically via a legal document called a conservation easement, is the mission of the Centre County Farmland Trust. Inspiring support, purchase and celebration of local food and drink products also furthers the Trust's mission of farmland preservation.

The Round Barn Route includes the historic Neff Round Barn, and Rhoneymeade Sculpture Garden & Arboretum, the former home and estate of Leonard Rhone, whose idea for a farmers' picnic grew into the annual tradition of the Grange Fair & Encampment. The route continues into Boalsburg, linking the Boalsburg Farmers Market and the Pine Grove Mills Farmers Market.

The Farm Routes project is possible thanks to generous members of the Trust, donors to the Centre County Farmland Trust and donors to the Centre Gives campaign, plus 2020 and 2021 grants from the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau.

Please contact Lisa Duchene at lisaduchewriter@gmail.com or centrecountyfarmlandtrust@gmail.com for additional information or to arrange an interview with officers of the Centre County Farmland Trust.