



Pennsylvania
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Pennsylvanians - Start Your Summer!

PASA to Celebrate the Start of Summer Farm Season with a Local Food Feast

HARRISBURG – Celebrate local flavor at “Summer Farm Start,” a festive evening of regional foods, farmers and fun presented by Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA). Memorial Day weekend is the official start of summer, and local food lovers will delight in strolling the grounds of Milestone Inn along the beautiful Susquehanna River on May 22, with smoking grills, live music, and the enjoyment of our farms first bounty being prepared fresh by top chefs.

PA Preferred Chef James Woltman of Stocks on Second is the creative genius behind this culinary show. He started with an exact list of what will be in season during the third week of May to create the custom menu. Chef Woltman is passionate about regional foods, and used mouth-watering “artistic license” when designing the fourteen dishes being premiered that night.

From *Grilled Lamb Sliders with Rosemary Chevre Spread*, to *PA Fish & Chips featuring Maple-Glazed Striped Bass with Fresh Pommies Frites*, to *Mushroom Wellington*, all of the evening’s ingredients were sourced locally from thirty regional producers. The full menu, featuring the name of each farm supplying the ingredients, can be viewed at www.pasafarming.org/summerstart. Many of the producers will be on hand that night, as the region’s finest farm fresh foods are prepared live for the guests.

The meal will be accompanied by Pennsylvania craft beers and varietal wines, and a sweet ending to the evening will be a host of tempting desserts provided by Wegmans. The evening promises to be a feast for guest’s palates and senses!

“PASA’s local food feasts continue to provide *locavores* a meeting place to share great food and company,” claimed Patti Olenick, volunteer chairperson. “We are so pleased that these events are effective at demonstrating the importance and relevance of supporting local farms...in the most delicious way! And it’s a great way to raise funds for PASA too.”

Founded in 1992, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) is one of the largest member-based, sustainable farming organizations in the country. PASA has approximately 5,000 members and reaches large audiences with statewide Buy Fresh Buy Local® chapters, Farm-Based Education summer programs, a nationally recognized winter conference, and a wide-variety of regional activities. PASA is unique in that it serves both farmers and consumers – working together to sustain regional farms and farmers.

Consumers are becoming more and more interested in *authentic* as well as *healthy* food choices, and this involves knowing more about where their food comes from and how it was produced. They are also learning that spending money on local food not only sustains the regional economy, but it also provides greater nutrition, preserves family farms, generates job opportunities, and beautifies the rural and urban landscape. PASA's consumer information website www.buylocalpa.org, is a fabulous resource & directory for locally produced and marketed products across the state.

“PASA has been holding Harvest Celebration Dinners at the end of the farm season for over six years” stated Lauren Smith, PASA Development Director. “Creating a special evening to kick-off and celebrate the beginning of our fabulous farm season seemed like a natural fit. It's been fun to craft an event that will feature the tender shoots of early summer. We're looking forward to enjoying spring rhubarb & early summer strawberries, and a host of early greens too. And of course we're featuring Kennett Square mushrooms, artesian cheeses and grass-fed meats. We will graze the night away while we celebrate our local farms...and farmers!”

Don't miss this revelry of locally grown, seasonal foods and meet the people who produce them at PASA's first annual Summer Farm Start. More information and online ticket sales are available at www.pasafarming.org/summerstart. All proceeds benefit the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture.

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