

Coming in next week's newsletter: Harvest Festival stories and Farm Talk!

The marshmallows get a make-over, and the Harvest Festival marks the official end of this year's season!

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OCT 21



Sunny

76°/46°

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4

As you can see we're going to have a great day for the 5th Annual Strong Family Farm Harvest Festival!

And just to be sure you can't mistake our farm festival for another celebration, we've turned our giant marshmallows into giant signage!



Done by the Ag-Ed volunteers from the Vernon/Rockville High School, this makes a fun addition to the farm, and a "strong" statement!

Farm Talk

A Bitter Sweet Goodbye

Though I've been running the Farm Stand for less than two months, it's been a lot of fun.

What I'll miss most is interacting with the people - those who come to look around, buy, or deliver the products we sell, those who are at the farm to volunteer, and of course the cats Lily and Minnie.

This is life on the farm though. Seasons bring changes and though the fields will be barren over the winter, there's still work to be done.

And truth to be told . . . being a Farm Stand that sells only Connecticut grown produce means that our selling season is shorter than other farms.

That's not to say that we don't still have plenty to sell! In fact, we have the best and brightest of the decorated pumpkins in the area!

Look at what else Christine Sniactach has brought us!



Over the winter, the newsletter will continue, and at the same time, we'll be revamping and making changes to the website.

Our plans are to expand the material available by tapping into the knowledge and experience of our Farm Friends, plus resources in the community and state.

So though we'll be saying goodbye to the Farm Stand for this year, we'll still be touch!

5th Annual Harvest Festival!

It's going to be a great day with great weather.

Here's a preview of what's going on and who you're going to meet!

Saturday, October 21st from 10 AM to 2 PM

Ongoing Activities

- Canning Demonstrations in front of the dairy barn next to the Milk Room.
- Kids Crafts in The Big Yellow Barn (suggested donation \$2 – free to members)
- Food by Jeff's Kettle Corn, Luann's Bakery, and [ReQuest-A-Chef](#)
- Hay Bale Maze – Corn Box Free Play Fun - Herd the Sheep – Lasso the Cow – Pumpkin Checkers and Pumpkin Toss – Tractors to view and sit on
- Animals and More Animals! [Aussakita Acres Farms](#) Llamas, Alpacas, Piglets, and [Ducks](#), [Hop-A-Long 4-H Club Rabbits](#), [Drigg's Hill Farm Chickens](#)
- Planting garlic with the Northern CT [LandTrust](#)
- Vernon Historical Society Antique Tools Display
- HUGE Raffle to benefit Jasmine Kermode's Girl Scout Gold project: Bee Hives at the Farm!!
- The Farm Stand will be open throughout the Festival

Scheduled Events

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| 10:00 | Opening Ceremonies at The Big Yellow Barn's Main Doors (north side of the building)
Ribbon Cutting and Dedication of the Barn's New Floor
Kick-off of The Big Yellow Barn's Centennial Celebration |
| 10:30 | Completion of the 2017 Adopt-a-Chicken Program
Certificate of Completion Presentation
Saying Farewell to the Hens as they leave for their new home at Drigg's Hill Farm in Vernon |
| 11:30 | Awards Announcements for the 5 th Annual Scarecrow Contest Winners |
| 12:15 | Story Time with children's author Lori Sanchez as she reads her book "Queenie Rules the Farm"
This event takes place at her booth. |
| 1:00 | Raffle Winners Announced |
| 2:00 | Closing Ceremonies |

Friends – Community - Vendors

Aussakita Acres Farms

Candles by Claudia

Canning with Claudia Steele

Community Voice Channel

Disney Travel

Drigg's Hill Farm

Friends of Rockville Public Library

Gypsy Hearts

Homemade Jewelry and Crafts by Linda

Hop-A-Long 4H Club

Jeff's Kettle Corn

Linda's Bag of Yarn

Lori Sanchez, Children's Book Author

LuAnn's Bakery

LuLaRoe by Rhi

Mazaella Jewelry

Northern CT Land Trust

Perfectly Posh by Cassi

RHS Future Farmers of America

Rockville Public Library

Strong Family Farm Non-Profit Organization

Tara's Cards and Gifts

Tastefully Simple by Laura

Tim's Woodworking

Touchstone Crystal Jewelry by Swarovski

Valley View Farms

Vernon CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

Vernon Historical Society

Vernon Police Explorers

White Oak Candle Co.

Master of Ceremonies is Lisa Moody and the roving photographers are Dan Villeneuve and Andre Garrant

Admission is Free!

There's also Free Parking at Center Road and Vernon Center Middle Schools. On-site parking is available for \$2.00 per car - enter the field from Peterson Road.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Harvest Festival and Wishing You All the Best!

Nancy Strong, Executive Director and Quinn Eurich, Editor