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7th ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AT CEDAR CIRCLE FARM & EDUCATION CENTER

E. Thetford, VT—Every year on the last Sunday in June, juicy red organically-grown strawberries are cause for celebration at **Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center in East Thetford, Vermont!** The **7th Annual Strawberry Festival**, now an Upper Valley family tradition, takes place **Sunday, June 28**, from **10-5** at the farm on Pavillion Road, just off of Route 5—rain or shine.

Festival goers are invited to celebrate Vermont strawberries and local organic agriculture while enjoying a host of mostly free activities, such as horse-drawn wagon rides to and from the strawberry patch (10-4); children's coloring projects and face painting (10-4); "Critter Kites" kite making (10-4, \$4 per kite); a raptor demonstration by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (1-3); Gabriel Q roving puppetry (11:30-3:30) with a "Garden Variety Puppet Show" from 12-1; live bluegrass music under the tent featuring the Strawberry Farm Band from Bath, NH (1:30-3:30), educational displays, and a self-guided farm tour. A farm-fresh food concession (starting at 11 am) offers homemade strawberry shortcake and cheesecake, strawberry smoothies, grilled local sausages and veggie burgers, salads, and local organic ice cream—plus wood-fired organic veggie pizzas made by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) in their copper-domed mobile oven.

The Strawberry Festival is a "green event" with a waste recovery station, which yielded but one bag of trash for more than 1200 people when implemented last year. Folks are invited to bring a place setting (plate, utensils and cup) to help reduce waste and receive a free strawberry smoothie!

Cedar Circle Farm's manager Kate Duesterberg reflects on the popularity of the event, saying, "The festival has really grown over the years. I think it's a sign that people recognize the value

of learning where their food comes from and why it's important to understand how it's grown. Lots of folks come and spend the day, starting with picking berries and then taking time to enjoy the good food, festive atmosphere, and opportunity to visit with their neighbors.”

According to husband and co-manager Will Allen, “Knowing where your food comes from is so important. More and more people are realizing that local, organic farms are the surest way to a safe food supply. And the added benefit is that farm fresh, organic food is really delicious, especially strawberries!”

The farmstand and Hello Café are also open. Parking is available in designated fields for \$5 per car, and carpooling is encouraged.

Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center is a fifty-acre certified organic farm dedicated to “growing for a sustainable future” through the production of certified organic vegetables and berries, bedding plants, and quality flowers and herbs. The farm offers a CSA program, dinners in the field, harvest festivals, tastings, gardening workshops, cooking classes, and educational farm tours for schools. For a strawberry festival schedule and directions, visit **CedarCircleFarm.org** or call the farm at **802-785-4737**.