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6th ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AT CEDAR CIRCLE FARM & EDUCATION CENTER

East Thetford, VT—Plump and juicy organically-grown strawberries are cause for celebration at **Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center**. The **6th Annual Strawberry Festival** takes place **Sunday, June 29**, from **10 am–5 pm**, rain or shine, on the farm at 225 Pavillion Road, just off of Route 5, in East Thetford, Vermont.

Festival goers are invited to celebrate Vermont strawberries and local organic agriculture while enjoying a host of free activities. Families can ride horse-drawn wagons to and from the strawberry patch (10 am-4 pm); watch a “Garden Variety” puppet show by Gabriel Q of White River Junction, VT (12-1 pm), and take a guided informational tour through the fields and greenhouses to learn about organic farming (2 pm). Kids can meet the Strawberry Queen on stilts, paint and plant flower pots, have their faces painted, or play in the sandbox. From 1-3 pm, Hafiz Shabazz of Thetford, VT, director of the World Music Percussion Ensemble at Dartmouth, plays drums with a small ensemble under the tent. To satisfy hungry appetites, the food concession opens at 11 am to serve homemade strawberry shortcake, grilled local sausages, veggie burgers, farm-fresh salads, and Strafford Organic Creamery ice cream. As an added treat, NOFA-VT offers organic veggie pizzas from their mobile wood-fired oven. Plenty of parking is available in a designated field.

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. With all the recent recalls of meat, spinach, etc., 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!”

During strawberry season, the certified organic strawberry patch opens for picking at 7 am and remains open until picked over. Pickers are urged to call ahead for availability.

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 and quality flowers and herbs. CCF offers a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, and educational programs and workshops for new farmers and the local community. Conserved in 1990 with the Vermont Land Trust, CCF is a proud member of Farms Not Arms, the Organic Consumers Association, Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA-VT), Rural Vermont, Slow Food USA, Valley Food & Farm, Vermont Farms! Association, and the Vermont Fresh Network, as well as supporters of the Upper Valley Localvores.

For more information call Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center at 802-785-4737 or visit their all-new website at CedarCircleFarm.org

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