



# CELEBRATE AND PROTECT CONNECTICUT'S WORKING FARMS

BY HENRY TALMADGE

The Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) will host the eighth annual Celebration of Connecticut Farms on Sunday, September 7, at Toplands Farm in Roxbury.

This award-winning Connecticut event, called “the hottest food event in the state” by *Connecticut Magazine*, has drawn attention across New England and sells out every year. Over 800 guests are expected to celebrate Connecticut’s farms and enjoy a delicious feast of local fare prepared by the state’s finest chefs, dance to live music, bid on marvelous silent auction items, and tour scenic Toplands Farm.

Toplands Farm has been in the Diebold family since 1942. It was a dairy farm until 1995 and now produces hay and serves as pasture for Scottish Highland cattle. Toplands is also home to chickens, goats, donkeys, and a spectacular collection of antique tractors that will be on display during the Celebration.

Renowned chef Jacques Pépin and Connecticut Public Radio host Faith Middleton will return as chairs of the Celebration. Also returning in 2008 to lead event preparations is John Turenne, founder of Sustainable Food Systems and a regular contributor to *Edible Nutmeg*.

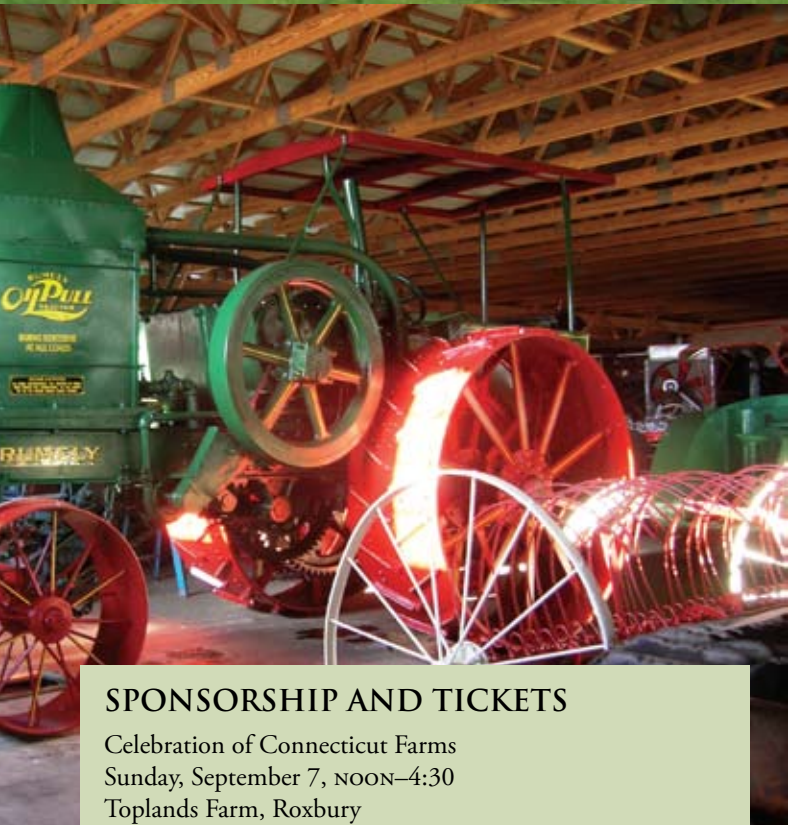
As in past years, the 2008 Celebration will showcase the skills of local farmers, chefs, cheesemakers, vintners, and brewers. Connecticut’s artists will also be represented with works by members of the Connecticut Plein Air Painters Society among the items available in this year’s auction.

The Celebration of Connecticut Farms is held annually to support CFT’s work throughout the year, including farmland protection projects and one-on-one consultations with farm families. Established in 2002, the Trust holds agricultural conservation easements that protect 1,120 acres of farmland on 14 farms around the state. It serves as a leading resource on conserving Connecticut’s working farmland.

Connecticut Farmland Trust is the only private, statewide, nonprofit conservation organization dedicated exclusively to protecting Connecticut’s working farmland. For more information about the Trust and to see a list of preserved farms please visit [www.ctfarmland.org](http://www.ctfarmland.org).



Inset photo (courtesy Connecticut Farmland Trust) shows one of Toplands’ antique tractors that will be on display. Background photo (by Robert Lockhart) shows Scottish Highland cattle.



## SPONSORSHIP AND TICKETS

Celebration of Connecticut Farms  
 Sunday, September 7, NOON-4:30  
 Toplands Farm, Roxbury

For sponsorship information or to request an invitation (which provides purchase information and further details), visit [www.ctfarmland.org](http://www.ctfarmland.org), click on "Events," and provide your name and mailing address on the invitation request form, or call the event line at 860.241.0873.

# HEAD FOR THE HILLS

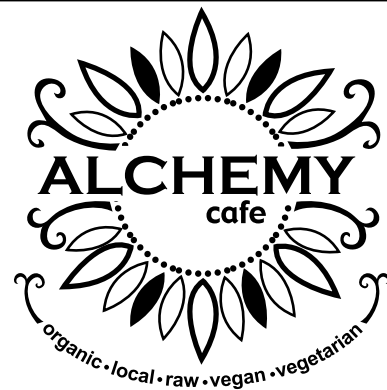
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