



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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PRESS RELEASE

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CT Farm-to-Chef Participants Selected to Cook for Farm Aid 2007

Hartford, CT/August 30, 2007 – Chefs Jonathan Rapp of River Tavern Restaurant in Chester, Drew McLachlan of Feast Market in Deep River, and Jason Collin of Firebox Restaurant in Hartford have been selected by Farm Aid to cook family farm food for over 500 VIPs at this year's benefit concert in New York City on September 9, 2007.

The three chefs are passionate about their use of sustainable, locally grown ingredients and all are participants in the CT Department of Agriculture's Farm-to-Chef Program. Chefs Rapp and McLachlan have been bringing their "Dinners at the Farm" series to farms and farmers' markets across the state this summer, while Chef Collin has been filling his menu at Firebox with the finest produce, meats, cheeses, and other CT Grown products available from local farms.

Joining Chefs Rapp, McLachlan, and Collin will be farmer Nunzio Corsino, who produces grass-fed beef and pork on his Four Mile River Farm in Lyme. The Connecticut foursome will be bringing a vast assortment of CT Grown foods with them, including Four Mile River Farm meats and other farm-fresh products from White Gate Farm in East Lyme, Starlight Farms in Durham, and Fallsbrook Farm of Lyme.

“We are thrilled that these exemplary chefs have been selected to represent our state at this legendary national event that supports family farming,” said Linda Piotrowicz, CT Farm-to-Chef Program Manager. “It is an honor bestowed upon only a small handful of chefs in the country. We are proud to have them representing our state’s excellent agricultural producers, their exceptional products, and the message of celebrating and supporting our local family farms.”

Farm Aid is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to keep family farmers on their land. Willie Nelson, Neil Young, and John Mellencamp organized the first Farm Aid concert in 1985 to raise awareness about the loss of family farms and to raise funds to keep farm families on their land. Dave Matthews joined the Board of Directors in 2001.

The CT Farm-to-Chef Program was launched in 2006 by the CT Department of Agriculture to help connect the state’s chefs with sources of CT Grown products and provides free educational materials, workshops, and networking for participants. For more information, please visit www.CTGrown.gov and click on “Programs and Services.”

CONNECTICUT GROWN - The Local Flavor

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