



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Rogers' Orchards Honored On Its 200th Anniversary

Hartford, CT – Rogers' Orchards of Southington celebrates its bicentennial on Friday with a special on-farm ceremony at 10 a.m. that features a gubernatorial proclamation declaring August 28 "Rogers' Orchards Day" in the State of Connecticut.

The on-farm ceremony will be held at 336 Long Bottom Road, Southington.

"Agriculture is an essential part of our heritage and has provided not only nutritious food, but beauty, open space, and economic benefit for all residents since Connecticut achieved statehood," said Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner F. Philip Prelli. "We are pleased to recognize the Rogers family for its hard work, resourcefulness, commitment and contribution to Southington and the surrounding area for the past two centuries."

Rogers' Orchards began when Chauncy Merriman, the great, great, great, great grandfather of current operator John Rogers purchased a small piece of land on the south end of Shuttle Meadow Lake in 1809, the year Abraham Lincoln was born. Chauncy planted some apple trees that same year, starting a tradition that has continued in Southington for seven generations and is expected to continue for many more to come.

Over the years, the diversity of trees grown on the farm has expanded and now includes 20 varieties of apples and 15 varieties of peaches, along with pears, plums, nectarines and apricots. John Rogers manages the orchard with his son Peter, daughter Martha, and son-in law Greg Parzych, the eighth generation to work this land.

Rogers' Orchards offers pick-your-own fruit on weekends during the fall, pre-picked fruit at its two retail salesrooms, and wholesale fruit to supermarkets and distributors throughout the region. The Shuttle Meadow Home Farm location is at 336 Long Bottom Road in Southington, while the satellite Sunnymount Farm is located a few miles away at 2876 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike in Plantsville.

To help ring in its bicentennial, the farm will hold a special event at both locations on Sunday, August 30, featuring an orchard walk benefiting Bread for Life, and free apple cider, cider donuts, and live music by bluegrass band Last Fair Deal. For more information, visit www.rogersorchards.com or call 203-879-1206.

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