

Member Spotlight: Sandy River Farm

The Farm, owned by Bussie and Brenda York, along with their daughter and son in law, Trudy and Eric Johnson, has operated as a dairy farm in Farmington producing milk for over 60 years. They have cared for each newborn calf and have watched her take the place of her mother in the milking order throughout the years. In February, the farm received notice from their milk buyer of the last 18 years that they would no longer have a market for their milk. The reason was not a quality issue but rather a policy change that doesn't allow the farmer to sell any milk or milk product directly to their own community. The Sandy River Farm has sold their milk like this for years, however,

and has a real relationship with the locals. They have also invested in building a farm store several years ago so receiving this news was quite a shock.

It is possible that the recent takeover of the company by a huge foreign conglomerate had much

to do with this decision. Loyalty to the small family farm is now less of a concern for they now source organic milk from a mega-farm in California at a few dollars less than from Maine farmers. The impact of these mega-farms (with 10,000 plus herds) and the ability to deliver by tank trucks in 36-40 hours spells a real challenge.



This change takes effect in August and the farm will lose the source that sustains them. There are some options that they are considering: send their family of cows on a final trip to the slaughterhouse which would be an emotional plight for their whole family or downsize the herd and sell locally. At present, they have a small processing facility which now makes skim, 1 1/2%, 2%, or whole milk in various size containers, along with unprocessed raw milk at the farm 24/7. The farm also makes a unique old fashioned frozen custard ice cream, as well as yogurt, butter, etc. The big question is, would this be enough? How much will the local community get behind them in this new endeavor?

They need community support to keep another farm from falling vacant.

The public's help is critical. Would bringing back a door-to-door delivery system be something that you could support? They will do their part by offering a great product, free from GMOs, antibiotics, and hormones. Their milk is not a blend of many farms onto one truck, it's from a single source so they know what goes into the product.

It is a long way to go with a short time to get there and your input is important. Please email your thoughts to Teajohn@msn.com, comment on Facebook, or stop by the farm store at 561 Farmington Falls Rd.

June's Business After Hours

On June 21, 2018 Franklin Memorial Hospital hosted the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce monthly Business After Hours and it was fantastic! What a beautiful facility! We here in Franklin County are very fortunate to have this amazing medical facility in our community.

The turnout for this event was wonderful. Most people in attendance were overwhelmed with the variety of programs that were on display for this event. There were healthy eating options, along with community engagement games, educational material, a tour of some of the new improvements within the building and a great presence from the administration of the hospital. Rounding out this event were some fantastic medical students from the University of New England who are currently doing a bit of work for FMH. Very enthusiastic is how I would describe these students.

Thank you to FMH for hosting us! And to all those that came out to learn more about one of our greatest community resources, you made our event a very successful evening, all around. Thank you!



Welcome our newest Chamber members!

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce is delighted to welcome our newest members. We continually strive to connect you to one another and to the community at large. Please visit their website and stop by to say hello.

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Jun 30
KINGFIELD POPS CONCERT
TIME: 4:00 PM - 11:00 PM
LOCATION: KINGFIELD, MAINE
Kingfield POPS Concert
Featuring: Bangor Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lucas Richman With collaborating guests Adam Ezra Group and Gypsy Tailwind Reunion Featuring Anna Lombard And solo performances by: Shawn Tooley, GoldenOak, Gypsy Tailwind Reunion, Adam Ezra Group and The Western Mountain Trash Can Band. The Kingfield POPS will be everything our audience has come to expect over the last 16 years, with a few refreshing changes that showcase our commitment to providing music programming for all ages. Once again the BSO performance will end our program and conclude with a Fireworks Finale!
Tickets are \$25 until gates open on June 30th, 2018. Prices at the gate are \$30. Youth 17 and under are free!!! GATES OPEN AT 4:30pm. What else to do? Friday Night Art Walk—June 29 from 5-8 p.m. Kingfield POPS Road Race—June 30 at 9 a.m. FMI www.kingfieldpops.com Kingfield POPS on Facebook info@kingfieldpops.com (207) 265-7677

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Jul 4
Farmington Independence Day Parade
TIME: 10am
LOCATION: Farmington, ME
The parade, which has been hosted by Farmington Rotary for more than 20 years, will be held on Wednesday, July 4. Line up starts at 8 am in the UMF Student Center parking lot and the parade starts promptly at 10 am. There will be cash awards for the winners. The theme for this year's parade is "Promoting Good Will."

Jul 12
RANGELEY REGION GUIDES & SPORTSMEN'S ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
TIME: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
The annual Strawberry Festival sponsored by Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen Association will be Thursday, July 13th. This popular festival features multiple arts and crafts vendors, fresh strawberry shortcake, and the Guides famous french fries.

Jul 18
Business After Hours at Skowhegan Savings Bank
Time: 5-7pm
June's Business After Hours will be held on Wednesday, July 18 at Skowhegan Savings Bank. Enjoy an

evening of networking and making new connections while enjoying snacks and refreshments. Free and open to the public so bring your business card and a friend and we hope to see you there!

July 20-22
Kingfield Festival Days
All Day
Location: Kingfield
Join us for the 2018 Kingfield Festival Days. We are getting spooky this year with a Zombie Apocalypse theme so get your floats ready for the grand parade Saturday the 21st at noon. We will have activities for all ages including inflatables, a dunk tank, a canoe obstacle course on the river, a street dance, vendors and more!

Jul 27
MAINE FORESTRY MUSEUMS 38TH ANNUAL LOGGING FESTIVAL
TIME: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
LOCATION: MAINE FORESTRY MUSEUM, 221 STRATTON ROAD, RANGELEY
The Maine Forestry Museum will be holding the first day of its 38th Annual Logging Festival on Friday July 27th from 10-4. Friday is free admission, events will include artists and crafters, children's activities, and at 3 pm witness the traditional burying of the beans for our "Bean-

Hole" dinner served on Saturday of the Festival. The Festival highlights will include authentic "bean-hole" dinner, Lumber Jack and Lumber Jill competitions, inside and outdoor forestry museum exhibits, barrel train rides, children's games, vendor booths, chainsaw carving demonstrations and more!

Aug 3 & 4
WILTON BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL
TIME: ALL DAY
LOCATION: DOWNTOWN WILTON
The Wilton Blueberry Festival, always held the first Friday and Saturday of August in Wilton, Maine, started in 1982 with a simple 'Blueberry Church Bazaar.' As the years have passed, it has grown into a two-day signature event, and a time for people from town and around to gather, socialize, and celebrate the heritage of this great region. 35 years running and averaging more than 60 unique events throughout the weekend, the festival has something new to offer year after year! This year's theme: Christmas in August. Enjoy a free live performance by Mark Gentle, the Maine Attraction Water Ski Show Team, craft sales, races, food, art show, parade, and more!
FMI: www.wiltonbbf.com or 207-778-4726

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