

“Farms for the Holidays” Guide Released **Homegrown, Authentic Southern Maryland Holiday Ideas**

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development commission (SMADC) has released the **“Farms for the Holidays 2008”** guide. As the seasons change, so do the farm products and events, making it possible to support our local rural economy all year. This popular guide is a mini-directory of regional farms offering locally grown or produced products as well as seasonal activities for a memorable, Southern Maryland holiday experience.

Organized by category of items (greenery and home décor; gifts; wine; poultry; meat and seafood; winter vegetables and holiday farm events) this free guide directs you to farm fresh winter produce, beautiful handmade centerpieces for festive tables and plump local turkeys to help create a Thanksgiving everyone will love. As Christmas approaches the holiday guide addresses all your needs; where to find and cut your own tree or attend a ‘how to’ workshop to create your own decorations, or pick up a pre-made holiday garland or wreath from a local farm. The guide offers many locations in St. Mary’s, Charles, Calvert, Prince George’s and Anne Arundel counties. Other products offered include homemade jams, jellies, honey, and a wide variety of winter produce. Soaps from goat and sheep milk as well as cozy cold weather accessories including blankets, and cuddly teddy bears made from sheep or Alpaca wool are also featured in the guide.

If you’re looking for a way to enjoy a holiday outing that celebrates the true spirit of the season, there is also an array of farm-hosted family events including live nativity scenes, candlelit caroling walks, nature walks through Christmas tree farms, or a fantasy trip to the North Pole.

Give thanks for the beauty and bounty of Southern Maryland and support our local farms. “Think of it as a present to you and your community – our rolling countryside and beautiful views are your free gift with every farm purchase and ensure our farms prosper into the future”, said Christine L. Bergmark, Executive Director of SMADC.

The “Farms for the Holidays 2008” guide can be downloaded at www.somarylandsogood.com or picked up, free of charge, at area destinations including Crain Memorial Visitors Center, The Royal Tea Room, Blue Wind Gourmet, St. Mary’s Welcome Center, Willow Oak Flower & Herb Farm, Accokeek Foundation, Middleton’s Cedar Hill Farm, Mom’s in the Kitchen Restaurant, The Ice Cream Factory & Café, Serenity Farm, Greenstreet Growers, Anne Arundel Co. Economic Development Corp, Café Des Artistes or the SMADC offices in Hughesville.

SMADC, the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, was established to promote diverse, market-driven enterprises, which, coupled with agricultural land preservation, will preserve Southern Maryland’s environmental resources and rural character while keeping the region’s farmland productive and the agricultural economy vibrant.

To find out more about the guides or to learn more about additional programs and resources, contact SMADC, P.O Box 745 Hughesville, MD 20637; phone; 301-274-1922; fax: 301-274-1924; email cbergmark@somarylandsogood.com; or visit these websites: www.somdtrails.com or www.somarylandsogood.com.