

Tourism News

**DUTCHESS
COUNTY TOURISM**

*"Inviting The World
To The Heart Of The
Hudson Valley"*

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Dutchess County Farm Fresh Link: Great One-Day Getaways

DUTCHESS COUNTY -- Interested in a one-day escape that's convenient, affordable, fun - *and* perfect to enjoy with family and friends? Then check out the new "Dutchess County Farm Fresh Link" MTA Metro-North One-Day Getaways. Dutchess County's pastoral green countryside is just a relaxing train ride away in the heart of the Hudson Valley. You'll get to visit charming villages as well as farms and wineries.

This summer, Metro-North and Dutchess County Tourism have teamed up to offer a series of new, weekend day trips so you can easily get back to the fresh, wholesome goodness of nature's bounty. Experience fresh-from-the-farm produce, pick your own fruits and vegetables, tour and taste at award-winning wineries, savor freshly made cheeses, meet friendly farm animals, enjoy agricultural-inspired art and a great deal more. The Dutchess County Farm Fresh Link Shuttle will pick you up and return you to your destination train station. You travel on the same shuttle to all of the stops, so you can even leave your belongings right on board!

The Farm Fresh series kicks off on Saturday, June 16 with the *Summer Family Farm Days* tour. You'll get on the local Farm Fresh Link shuttle at the Poughkeepsie train station. This tour provides a behind-the-barn slice of life at Plankenhorn Dairy Farm. Next you'll stop in Millbrook to visit their shops and grab lunch at the busy Millbrook Farmers' Market. Then it's off to Secor Farms in Wappingers to pick seasonal berries and produce.

The *Food & Wine Weekends* tour starts Saturday, July 7 with your arrival at the Poughkeepsie train station. Your first stop will be Alison Wines and Vineyards in Red Hook, where you will tour the winery, located in a converted barn, and taste their wines. Then stroll next door to Gigi Market for a mouth-watering feast of foods prepared with locally grown produce, served outdoors on their patio. You'll have time to pick your own fruit to take home at Greig Farm. Then board the shuttle to charming Rhinebeck and spend time strolling among the shops.

All Farm Fresh Link Getaway packages – available through MTA Metro-North beginning June 1 – include discounted, round-trip rail fare and shuttle transportation (some activities, as well as lunch, are an additional cost). The packages are available online, at station ticket offices and ticket machines. Purchase your package online at www.mta.info and receive an additional 5 percent off the already discounted package. You cannot buy the packages on the train or at destination stations. Reservations for the Dutchess County Farm Fresh Link Shuttle are required at least 48 hours in advance by calling 800-445-3131 and selecting “0” for an operator.

Three additional Farm Fresh Link One-Day Getaways are planned to run later this summer and during fall foliage season: *Fall Family Farm Days*; *Cheese, Wine & Art Weekends*; and *Fall Food, Wool & Fine Tea Weekends*.

For more details about the Dutchess County Farm Fresh Link One-Day Getaways, as well as other local agri-tourism resources, news and information, visit Dutchess County Tourism's new website, farmfresh.dutchesstourism.com. Dutchess County Tourism's Farm Fresh Link packages are made possible by a grant from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Dutchess County Tourism was founded in 1984 under the umbrella of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation, both of which are funded by the County of Dutchess.