

Tourism News

**DUTCHESS
COUNTY TOURISM**

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

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For Immediate Release

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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 increasingly popular "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.

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 *Food & Wine Weekends* tour is running now until Sunday, August 4, allowing newcomers to experience what so many visitors from the New York City area have already enjoyed! The trip will start 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.

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*.

All Farm Fresh Link Getaway packages – available through MTA Metro-North – 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.

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.