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-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

4th Annual Pennsylvania Organic FarmFest kicks off August 7

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) announces the Pennsylvania Organic FarmFest, back for its 4th year, August 7 & 8 at the Grange Fairgrounds in Centre Hall. Join us as we celebrate the ever-growing organic community through inspiring speakers, family activities, parades, hayrides, live music, dance and of course, organic food! This free event is great for the entire family.

"Pennsylvania Organic FarmFest celebrates our state's rich organic heritage, which began more than 75 years ago when J.I. Rodale first used the term 'organic' to describe natural alternatives to chemical farming," says Leslie Zuck, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Certified Organic. "Pennsylvania now ranks in the top ten in organic production thanks to generations of family farmers dedicated to producing healthy, delicious food for their families and communities."

Organic Education

The educational sessions this year promise to bring insight and inspiration on organic and sustainable living, with a special track dedicated to GMOs called "Certified Organic: Always non-GMO!" The Spring Creek Homesteading Track offers workshops on Food Preservation Without Canning, Home Mushroom Production, Permaculture as an Approach to Homestead Level Food Production, and a talk by Laura Young of Spring Mill's Rising Spring Meats, a PCO-certified organic meat processor. A founding partner of FarmFest, Spring Creek supports local self-sufficiency by supporting new, renovated, and expanded food gardens and orchards, urban farms, community greenhouses, kitchens, bakeries, farmers markets, and workshop programs in the homesteading arts.

Keynote Speakers

An inspiring array of guest speakers will be featured throughout the event, including:

- **Michael Smith**, Executive Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (Friday)
- **Hannah Smith-Brubaker**, Deputy Secretary for Markets and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (Friday)
- **Gary Zimmer**, President Midwestern BioAg, Author *The Biological Farmer* (Friday and Saturday)
- **Coach Smallwood**, Executive Director, Rodale Institute (Friday)

- **Andre Leu**, Author *The Myths of Safe Pesticides* and President of International Federation of Organic Farming Movements (IFOAM) (Friday and Saturday)
- **Ken Roseboro**, Editor/Publisher of *The Organic & Non-GMO Report* and *The Non-GMO Sourcebook* (Saturday)

Organic Valley Family Arena

A main focal point of the festival, the Organic Family Arena offers live entertainment, hands-on activities, and learning opportunities for children and adults alike. Featured on the Family Stage are KJ Smiles, Gary Gyekis, Smoke in the Light, Jamie DuVall, Jim Pierce, and Barafo West African Drumming Collective, with more acts to be announced. The Family Arena will also have demonstrations with live farm animals, birds of prey and more.

In conjunction with Pennsylvania Organic FarmFest, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) will hold a two-day Summer Conference of educational programming at the same location on Thursday, August 6, and Friday, August 7. (Registration and fee required, pasafarming.org.) This two-day in-depth learning experience will dive into “The Story of Soil” with practical and effective information on how to build and maintain soil health on your farm. The PASA Summer Conference also features Keynote Gary Zimmer of Midwestern BioAg.

The Bell & Evans Homemade & Homegrown Market

A main staple of FarmFest is the Bell & Evans Homemade & Homegrown Market, which includes the wildly popular Mom’s Organic Food Court, with a variety of regional food trucks and vendors using organic and local whole food ingredients for their entire menu. The Market also includes unique craft vendors and farmers market vendors. It’s a great time to shop for local produce and for that perfect gift!

Expanded Wool Village

Because last year’s Wool Village was so successful, this year we’re moving them to a larger building. Find your favorite fiber vendors—spinners, weavers, knitters, and retailers—at the Wool Village. The village also features a number of demos, including spinning, sock knitting, kids activities, and more.

Calling All Contestants

Friends and Famers Cooperative will be back with the wildly popular pie contest. Get out your apron and dust off your recipe box! Or, if you don’t want to bake a pie, you can be the judge by eating pie. Organic produce contests are new this year and include vegetables, fruit, flowers and baked goods. Photographers are encouraged to enter their organic farm and food-related pics in our calendar photo contest.

Live Music!

Experience some of the best local music on FarmFest's three live music stages. Headlining this year's barn dance is Marah. The Homemade & Homegrown Stage features performances from the Raven & the Wren, Harold Taddy, and a Variety Hour sponsored by the fledgling radio station WSOV: Sounds of the Valley. Local kids acts and dancing groups populate the Family Arena stage as well.

Book Nook

Book Nook features an opportunity to meet local and national authors in a casual setting. Hear these writers read excerpts from their books, and tell their own stories related to health and well-being: Robin Moore, local author and storyteller; Herbalist Jennifer Tucker; Spiritualist Nick Brink; Non-GMO Report Editor Ken Roseboro and Environmentalist Andre Leu.

FarmFest 5K

On Saturday the FarmFest 5K and fun walk has always been a great way to wake up and get ready for a full day at FarmFest! The 5k course takes runners through the extensive, scenic Grange Fairgrounds. Register now to run the FarmFest 5K at farmfest@paorganic.org/5k/

Browsing Barn

Back by popular demand is the Browsing Barn, which houses the Book Nook, a Tasting Area, an Organic Vegetable Contest, the Pie Tasting Contest and the Pennsylvania Farmers Union Benefit Auction, full of great local gifts and goodies.

Camping, bikes, pets welcome

The famous Grange Fair tents will be set up for campers or you can bring your own tent or RV. There's plenty of space for kids and adults to bicycle around the fairgrounds and your well behaved family pets are invited, too! Bring your water bottle, coffee mug and shopping bags – FarmFest is (of course) a “zero waste” event.

There is so much to do and see at this FREE festival. Be sure to bring the whole family for a whole lot of fun.

There are still vending, sponsorship, and volunteer opportunities. Please visit our website at farmfest.paorganic.org for more information or contact Erin McCracken, FarmFest Coordinator, at farmfest@paorganic.org or 814-422-0251 (ask for the FarmFest Team!).

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) is a non-profit organization that educates and certifies organic growers and handlers in Pennsylvania and the surrounding region. PCO certifies more than 700 farming and food production operations, including produce, field crops, herbs, wild crops, dairy products, poultry

products, value-added products, livestock, mushrooms, maple, snack foods, coffee, tea, cosmetics, and more. To learn more about PCO or to apply for organic certification, call 814-422-0251 or visit our website at www.paorganic.org.