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Contact: Kim Bierly
Phone: (814)-777-3190
Email: kimbierly@hotmail.com

Wool Village at Pennsylvania Organic FarmFest Showcases Vendors and Fiber Demonstrations

The "Wool Village" is growing! Fiber enthusiasts can enjoy a variety of fiber-related activities at the annual Pennsylvania Certified Organic FarmFest on Friday, July 29 and Saturday, July 30. FarmFest is held on the Centre County Grange Fairgrounds in Centre Hall.

This will be the third year for the Wool Village that has been well-received by thousands of fiber enthusiasts. This year's event will showcase 14 vendors, fiber demonstrations, and an added space for fiber enthusiasts to sit and work on their current project.

"The Wool Village brings together knitters, crocheters, spinners, weavers and needle felters. It offers the opportunity to observe fiber craft demonstrations, shop at vendor booths, and start a new hobby," says Kim Bierly, the Wool Village coordinator and owner of Main Street Yarn in Rebersburg. The Wool Village will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days.

There is an exciting schedule of demonstrations provided by local fiber enthusiasts who are volunteering their time. "We are very appreciative that they want to add this important segment to the fiber building. They are interesting and something rarely seen," says Mrs. Bierly.

This year's schedule includes:

Friday, July 29

Centre Spinners will demonstrate spinning techniques on drop spindles and spinning wheels. Their demos will be inside the Wool Village from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sock knitting machine demos will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, July 30

Local machine knitters will provide demos inside the Wool Village from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sock machine demos will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday and Saturday

* Join local knitters and crocheters in the "Knitting Circle" located on the lawn under the shade tree just outside the entrance to the Wool Village. They will gladly answer

questions about their crafts and why they chose them. This is not a class, so instructions will not be given at the event. They will be on-site throughout the day as their personal schedules permit. Bring along your folding chair and sit awhile.

* Make sure to check out all the booths inside Wool Village. Some vendors will be doing demos off-and-on each day. One booth will have angora rabbits who will be donating their fiber for spinning. Other vendors will be knitting, doing needle felting, and other fiber hobbies.

"The Wool Village is a great opportunity for fiber enthusiasts and vendors," says Mrs. Bierly. "Over the past decade the interest in knitting, crocheting, spinning, and weaving have increased dramatically. Various studies show the health benefits to those who participate in fiber crafts," she added.

The 2016 Pennsylvania Organic FarmFest is a fun, free community-building event that fosters knowledge of organic agriculture and sustainable living through educational opportunities, local foods, lively entertainment, and interactive family activities.

Visit us at farmfest.paorganic.org or call 814-422-0251 for more details and to learn how you can reserve a coveted Grange Fair Army Tent or camping spot, run in the FarmFest 5K on Saturday morning July 30 at 9 am, or select the educational workshops you'd like to attend. Bring the whole family to FarmFest 2016 and Learn, Shop, Listen, Play, and Eat local organic foods from area farmers!

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.