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Media photos available – see below.



### **Celebrate Wisconsin Farm Living with SOIL SISTERS: August 7-9, 2020**

Monroe, Wisconsin – Meet Wisconsin’s inspiring community of women farmers championing local food and family farms at SOIL SISTERS, the award-winning, largest women farmer led event of its kind in the nation. SOIL SISTERS: A Celebration of Wisconsin Farms and Rural Life invites you to tour, taste, learn and play in this multi-faceted on-farm weekend involving more than twenty women-owned farms in and around Monroe, Brodhead, New Glarus and Blanchardville in South Central Wisconsin from August 7 to 9, 2020.

Featured in Midwest Living, Modern Farmer, Living the Country Life, FarmHer and a 2019 Top Rural Development Initiative Award winner, SOIL SISTERS brings the national spotlight to the inspiring stories of Wisconsin women-owned family farms that produce food and fiber while stewarding the landscape. Women represent approximately 35 percent of farmers in Wisconsin, a 16 percent increase since 2012. Wisconsin has 1,276 organic farms, second in the country only to California.

“Come meet your farmers and learn about local, seasonal food and how we can all transform what’s on our plate,” explains Dela Ends of Scotch Hill Farm, a founding member of SOIL SISTERS since the event started seven years ago. “From heirloom tomatoes to pickles, sheep to solar energy, farmstay bed & breakfasts to beef, we soil sisters offer a unique diversity of farm experiences showcasing the summer’s bounty.” SOIL SISTERS is a project of Renewing the Countryside, in partnership with the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) and the Wisconsin Farmers Union.

SOIL SISTERS offers a range of on-farm “green acres” immersive workshops, from preserving the harvest to cheesemaking as well as several opportunities to experience what it would be like to run your own farm. Dining events featuring items raised by the soil sisters include the Farm to Table Dinner at Dorothy’s Range, a Pizza on the Farm fundraiser held at Inn Serendipity Farm and Bed & Breakfast and Taste of Place at Cow & Quince restaurant. Additionally, restaurants feature specials throughout the weekend showcasing local ingredients.

Back by popular demand in 2020, the Bus Tour of Farms provides the opportunity for a “behind the scenes” and intimate experience on a diversity of farms. Additionally, day-long workshops will be offered that give a detailed learning opportunity in areas such as operating a pasture-based livestock ranch, launching a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm, running a farmstay bed and breakfast or powering your home or farm completely with renewable energy.

“SOIL SISTERS showcases the increasing role women farmers play in our rural areas, representing one of the fastest growing groups of new growers prioritizing small-scale, diversified, community-focused agriculture,” explains FL Morris of Grassroots Farm and coordinator of the Bus Tour of Farms. “Our Bus Tour of Farms shares each of our farm start-up experiences and ideas for the future. That collaborative, supportive spirit is what SOIL SISTERS is all about.”

The SOIL SISTERS weekend includes:

- In Her Boots, a day long, hands-on program for aspiring women farmers. Facilitated by the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES); Friday, August 7; 10 am – 3 pm; ticketed event.
- Taste of Place at Cow & Quince restaurant: Kick-off the weekend at this local food celebration; Friday, August 7; 6 pm.
- Green Acres Workshops: On-farm, hands-on fun and educational workshops; Friday, August 7 through Sunday, August 9; at various times and locations; ticketed events.
- Farm to Table Dinner hosted by Dorothy’s Range with a sit-down dinner featuring heritage pork; Saturday, August 8; 4 pm – 8 pm; ticketed event.
- Pizza on the Farm fundraising meal hosted by Inn Serendipity Farm and Bed & Breakfast, featuring made-to-order personal pizzas made in a wood-fired oven with local ingredients including fresh produce and award-winning Emmi Roth cheeses and root beer floats; Saturday, August 8, 5 pm – 9 pm; ticketed event.
- Bus Tour of Farms: Sunday, August 9; ticketed event.
- Dine Fine: Numerous participating restaurants feature menu specials. Friday, August 7 through Sunday, August 9; specials vary by participating restaurants.

“The SOIL SISTERS weekend celebrates women farmers pioneering new approaches to family farm businesses while honoring Wisconsin’s agricultural roots and encouraging new farms to launch,” says Jan Joannides, Executive Director of Renewing the Countryside. “The SOIL SISTERS weekend provides a

unique opportunity to directly connect with women stewarding our land and revitalizing our rural economy.”

SOIL SISTERS is a program of Renewing the Countryside with additional support from the Wisconsin Farmers Union and the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service. Additional sponsors or media partners include Edible Madison, Emmi Roth USA, Green County Tourism, Green County Economic Development Corporation, Adunate Word and Design and Cedar Crest Ice Cream.

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Photo options with credit line and sample caption below:

1) April Prusia giving Farm Tour:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MI8KGfA0DrAG3gGP-CRcMxQ-6kxTyX8U>

Photo credit: Will Scully

Sample caption:

Farmer April Prusia of Dorothy’s Range in Blanchardville, Wisconsin, will be sharing her farm story during at the Farm to Table Dinner during SOIL SISTERS.

2) Soil Sisters group shot:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/36a0asaucgie5u8/Barn-GroupShot.JPG?dl=0>

Photo credit: John D. Ivanko Photography

Sample caption:

A team of over twenty women farmers will be opening their barn doors during the SOIL SISTERS weekend on Aug.7-9, 2020, hosting various on-farm workshops, culinary events and bus tours.

3) Soil Sisters logo: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/jvectigek0fyva4/soilsisters\\_gold-logo.jpg?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/jvectigek0fyva4/soilsisters_gold-logo.jpg?dl=0)