

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Marc Tremblay
401.568.3410

SILVO-PASTURING LIVESTOCK at WILD HARMONY FARM IN EXETER

The RI Forest Conservator's Organization (RIFCO) will conduct its Annual Spring Program at Wild Harmony Farm off Route 102 (366 Victory Highway) in Exeter, RI on Saturday, May 13th from 9 a.m. to noon. Farm operator Ben Coerper has been utilizing advanced Silvo-pasturing techniques for his grass-fed livestock for several years on his farm. Silvo-pasturing is an Agro-forestry technique that allows for the retention of mature trees while raising livestock.

The guided walk will be led by Ben and forest manager Marc Tremblay, and is free and open to the public. According to Ben, "We've had great success with establishing good pasturage while retaining a tree canopy, which is great for our product but also for carbon storage in the trees and in the soil. We're looking forward to showing others how the combination of growing local food can also help retain our forest cover."

The walk will include the viewing of other forest management practices that have occurred or will be taking place on the larger WeeHoose Farm. Some of those practices are Conservation Activities that are partially funded by the USDA-NRCS' EQIP Program. The walk will also include tree identification, deer-browse impacts, forest ecology and other woodlot management topics.

The property is located at 366 Victory Highway, and visitors can use the access road to the Wild Harmony Farm farmstand. Parking directions and signage will be set up on site at 8:30 am, and the program will start at 9. The RIFCO Spring Program is free and open to the public.

Directions to the site are available by calling RIFCO at (401)568-3410, or one can go to www.rifco.org for more information.

The RI Forest Conservator's Organization is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and wise use of Rhode Island's forest resources.

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