

Sarah Kurtanich, Director of Marketing, Visit Howard County
410-313-1903, Sarah@howardcountytourism.com

Visit Howard County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Visit Howard County Hosts Inaugural Farm-to-Table Networking Expo

Highlights

- Farm-to-Table Networking Expo brought local farms, craft brews and restaurateurs together to build relationships and support local businesses.
- New event featured the best local farmers and beverage producers have to offer Howard County restaurants.

Ellicott City, MD (March 2017) - Visit Howard County held the first ever Farm-to-Table Networking Expo on February 27 from 2-4 p.m. at The Other Barn in Columbia, MD.

Farms and local craft brewers set up informative exhibits about their respective farms and brews as well as a list of available products. Restaurateurs were invited to visit each table to network and learn about products that will be available in the upcoming season. With the Farm-to-Table movement booming, the expo was a hit.

Not only did expo benefit the local producers, but restaurateurs got to engage in one-on-one conversations with farmers and discuss ways to make the dining experience for their guests even better. "As a chef it's very important to me to support local farms and businesses. Not only does it boost the local economy, but it gives my guests a superior product to which they feel connected. The Farm-to-Table Expo provided the perfect opportunity to meet great local farmers, beverage producers, and other chefs in my community. I look forward to continuing these relationships for years to come" said Keith Holsey, owner and chef of Portalli's Italian Restaurant, located on Main Street in Old Ellicott City.

Brie Ferguson, store marketer and community liaison at Whole Foods Market Columbia said "the Farm-to-Table Expo was a great way to connect our customers to these producers in our local community. Local farms are such a valuable component of a community's character and our shoppers love seasonality, unique flavors and diversity of local crops."

BJ Radhe from Maple Lawn Turkey Farm said "the event was very beneficial to meet with old and new contacts and discuss the future of farm to table products. I will be more than willing to participate in another event in the future."

Those who attended the expo include:

- Aida Bistro
- Baltimore Business Journal
- Boarman's Meat Market
- Breezy Willow Farm
- Carroll Mill Farm
- Centre Park Grill
- Chef Kevin Brothers Personal Services LLC
- Circle D Farm
- Clark's Farm
- Conscious Corner / Roots Market / Great Sage
- Custom Media Options, LLC
- Frank's Produce
- Hensing Farm
- Heritage Hill Meats and Produce LLC
- Howard County Economic Development Authority
- Iron Bridge Wine Co.
- Jailbreak Brewing
- Kloby's Smokehouse
- Limestone Valley Farm
- Linganore Winecellars
- Lost Ark Distilling Company
- Maple Lawn Turkey Farm
- Mary's Land Farm
- Matcha Time Cafe, LLC
- Petit Louis Bistro
- Portalli's Italian Restaurant
- Restaurant Association of Maryland
- River House Pizza Co.
- Roving Radish
- Seasons 52
- Strohmer's Farm
- Sweet Cascades Chocolatier
- The Turn House
- The Preakness Balloon Festival
- The White Oak Tavern
- Tino's Italian Bistro
- Town Grill at Fosters Country Store
- University of Maryland Extension
- Whitehouse Caterers
- Whole Foods Market

TWEETS

Visit Howard County's Farm-to-Table Networking Expo literally brought the farm to the table
 #BuyLocal #FarmtoTable #ExploreHoCoMD

The Farm-to-Table movement is rapidly growing here in Howard County, so the Farm-to-Table
 Expo is a must! #BuyLocal #ExploreHoCoMD

One room, over 10 farms, 25+ restaurateurs, 3 craft brews and endless connections at The Farm-to-Table Expo #ExploreHoCoMD

Tourism WORKS for HOWARD COUNTY, MD!

11,000 employed in County's Tourism industry (1 in 8 Nationally, 131,000 in Maryland)

35,000 visitors in Welcome Center (from 50 states, 18 countries, 3 territories)

\$16M in tax receipts reinvested to maintain County's citizens' nationally recognized quality of life.

About Visit Howard County

Visit Howard County (501c6 not-for-profit) is recognized by Howard County Government and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development as the official Destination Marketing Organization for Howard County, Maryland and funded by a legislated 2% of the county hotel tax, allocated through Howard County Government. Visit Howard County's mission is to increase, develop and promote tourism in Howard County by featuring the county's unique location, sites, services, products and people. We are the first and foremost source of information on all that is wonderful about visiting and living in Howard County, Maryland.

www.VisitHowardCounty.com

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