



EarthWatch Rhode Island



Topic: Fun Fall Farm Activities

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Background

Rhode Islanders can help preserve the states' farms by purchasing locally grown products from local farmers and by participating in the fun fall agri-tourism provided by many farms throughout Rhode Island. The Department's Division of Agriculture promotes and markets Rhode Island farms so that Rhode Islanders are aware of all the fun opportunities and activities provided by farms throughout the seasons, particularly what lies in store this fall!

Agri-tourism is an industry that is experiencing increasing popularity. With the public's growing interest in farm life, farmers have spanned the definition of agri-tourism to include everything from farmers' markets to educational tours of their farms to this season's fun fall activities of hayrides, corn mazes and apple and pumpkin picking. It provides a new way to help sustain small farms as it offers alternatives to improving farmers' incomes and boosting the economic viability of small farms and rural towns. No matter what type of activity is offered, agri-tourism is a growing industry and with it expected to increase by 30% per year over the next decade, many farmers are jumping on the agri-tourism bandwagon.

The Benefits of the Fall Farm Season for You and the Farmers

The Rhode Island agricultural business offers great activities for people of all ages. This coming fall season presents a perfect time for apple picking, hot apple cider, pumpkin picking and other fun activities such as hayrides and corn mazes.



Above is some of the produce you'll find outside of Jaswell Farm in the fall.

Farms across Rhode Island have been a source of fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables for many years. Now, with the agri-tourism industry growing, many farms have diversified in order to offer their visitors fun and educational experiences of what farm life is like along with their fresh produce.

Filming Location:

Jaswell's Farm Stand and Bakery

50 Swan Road

Smithfield, RI 02917

Phone: (401) 231-9043

<http://www.jaswellsfarm.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=home>

More Information for Consumers

- DEM' RI Grown Website (www.rigrown.ri.gov)
- *Rhode Island Agriculture Guide*, published by DEM, lists local farms, roadside stands and farmers' markets by location as well when specific products are available. <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/agricult/pdf/agguide.pdf>

Interviews:

- Michael Sullivan, Director, DEM
- Chris Jaswell, Owner, Jaswell's Farm



At right, a Jaswell employee prepares some candy apples for the bakery. At left, Chris Jaswell, the owner of Jaswell's Farm in Smithfield harvests some apples.

A Jaswell farmer
prepares some
candy apples for
the bakery.