



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Caitlin Wargo

Communications Director

(518) 891-6200

Bike the Barns to Support North Country Farms

Sept. 24 farm-by-bike experience benefits new FarmShare fund

Keeseville, NY - Registration is now open for Bike the Barns, a new, fully supported recreational road cycling tour providing a personal connection with the rich agricultural movement of the North Country.

The Saturday, Sept. 24 agritourism event is presented by the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) and will feature rest stops and interactive experiences at seven farms in the Champlain Valley. Three routes of differing lengths will begin and end at Mace Chasm Farm in Keeseville, NY, where a celebration of local food and music will cap off the day's activities.

Registration starts at \$50: www.Adirondack.org/BikeTheBarns.

Ride distances begin at just 10 miles with a "Family Fun Ride," but those looking for a longer adventure can choose a 35 or 50-mile option. Each showcases the stunning beauty of the region while linking the cyclist directly to the local farms that complement the small towns and villages along the route.

"The growth in the local food movement strengthens local economies and helps build community, both core to ANCA's mission," says ANCA Executive Director Kate Fish. "We are proud to host this first-in-the-region event that connects our farms and their delicious products with biking enthusiasts from around the country."

As a fully supported event, guests will have help if they need it along the route, as well as water and restrooms at each farm stop. Additional featured farms include Echo, Essex, Reber Rock, Ben Weaver, North Country Creamery at Clover Mead and Fledging Crow Vegetables.

"This tour is about encouraging people to connect with our local farms, farmers, and food at a leisurely pace," says Josh Bakelaar, Agriculture Coordinator at ANCA. "Bicycling is the ideal way to relax and enjoy the experience. We are working with the team that is coordinating Cycle Adirondacks to ensure the event is a success."

The 2016 route celebrates the Lake Champlain Valley, a fertile landscape bounded by the Adirondack High Peaks region to the west, with Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains of Vermont to the east. Rolling hills and open countryside with lake and mountain views in every direction characterize the terrain in the valley.

Bike the Barns guests can expect low-traffic, smoothly paved roads with breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and valley.

FarmShare Fund:

Proceeds from Bike the Barns will be used to support local farms and a portion of every rider's event fee will go directly into the [FarmShare Fund](#).

"This event has one main goal," says Bakelaar. "Celebrate our region's vibrant farming landscape in a way that provides new markets for farmers and healthy, farm-grown food for our communities."

By participating in Bike the Barns, riders will:

- Create direct connections between farms and consumers
- Help provide CSA farm share subsidies for low-income households
- Support ANCA initiatives such as Farm to School, Food Hub Development, and Agritourism
- Further local food efforts of ANCA's partners, including Cuisine Trails, Adirondack Harvest, and GardenShare.

For more information on Bike the Barns, contact Jacob Vennie-Vollrath at ANCA (518) 891-6200.

Photos available for editorial use. Credit: Bike the Barns

1. [Mace Chasm Farm](#) - Mace Chasm Farm in Keeseville will serve as the start and finish of the event, which will link cyclists with six other farms along the ride.

2. [Bicyclist](#) - Cyclists of all ability levels will be able to truly connect with local farms and farmers during Bike the Barns.

ANCA is an independent nonprofit organization working to build dynamic local economies that sustain thriving communities in Northern New York. Since 1955, ANCA has leveraged the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars into the region in sectors that drive sustainable local economic development.

###