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## West Virginia State Parks to Host Farm-to-Table Dinners

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**Charleston, WV** - The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA), in conjunction with the West Virginia Farmers Market Association (WVFMA), the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (WVDNR) and the West Virginia state parks system, will host eight farm-to-table dinners from June 14<sup>th</sup> to September 27<sup>th</sup>. Each event will take place at a state park restaurant, pairing locally grown produce and products for menu items.

“Producers and food providers need to understand they are partners in growing our local food systems. By working together, they can better plan and understand each other’s needs,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “We are thankful that Director Steve McDaniel and the DNR are willing to partner on this initiative.”

The goal of the dinners is to introduce more locally sourced products into restaurant menus, while developing connections between farmers markets and local buyers. The WVDA, WVDNR and WVFMA hope to ultimately create a seamless conduit for supplying local demand. For many producers participating in these events, this will be a scale up opportunity and chance to grow their businesses.

“West Virginia state parks are proud to take part in this project to promote locally produced food items in our state park restaurants,” said WVDNR Director Stephen McDaniel. “This will be a summertime treat for our visitors and give them another reason to spend more time in our beautiful state parks.”

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## Location & Dates:

- Pipestem State Park (Summers County): Thursday, June 14, 2018
- Cacapon Resort State Park (Morgan County): Thursday, June 21, 2018
- Cass Scenic Railroad State Park (Pocahontas County): Thursday, August 2, 2018
- Chief Logan Lodge (Logan County): Thursday, August 9, 2018
- North Bend State Park (Ritchie County): Thursday, August 16, 2018
- Holly River State Park (Webster County): Thursday, August 30, 2018
- Hawks Nest State Park (Fayette County): Thursday, September 13, 2018
- Blackwater Falls State Park (Tucker County): Thursday, September 27, 2018

"We are extremely grateful to the WVDA and the WVDNR for this incredible opportunity to partner with our state parks to show off what West Virginia farmers markets have to offer. We hope that the public is as excited about this as we are and that this farm to table dinner series is just the beginning of a beautiful relationship between our state park system and our local farmers and value-added producers. Sourcing from West Virginians for West Virginia state park restaurants and gift shops just makes good sense," said West Virginia Farmers Market Association Executive Director Parween Mascari.

Seat are limited. For more information, please click here:

<https://wvstateparks.com/event/farm-table-dinner-pipestem/>. To make a reservation for the June 14<sup>th</sup> dinner at the Pipestem Resort, please call 304-466-1800.

*The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials who sits on the Board of Public Works..*

