

Fort Hill Farms hosting blueberry, bluegrass bash

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[Fort Hill Farms in Thompson is about to turn blue for a day.](#)

The family-owned farm will hold its first Ice Cream, Blueberry and Bluegrass Bash from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, celebrating its one-year anniversary of making ice cream.

“We thought it appropriate to declare it an ice cream event,” Fort Hill Farms co-owner Peter Orr said. “And July happens to be National Ice Cream Month. What better way to celebrate with our new flavors coming out.”

The doors will open for free and Fort Hill Farms plans multiple free events including complementary samplings of new ice cream flavors topped with fresh blueberries grown at the farm. “The blueberry crop looks great,” said Orr, who added that workers were out picking blueberries earlier this week.

Blackstone Valley Bluegrass will perform Saturday at the Ice Cream, Blueberry and Bluegrass Bash at Fort Hill Farms in Thompson.

There will also be horse and tractor wagon rides exploring the farm and scenic views as well as opportunities to meet animals in the farm’s Discovery Barnyard. Also, the Quintessential Gardens will be open for self-guided tours featuring a lavender garden created by Orr’s wife.

“My wife makes an organic lavender topping (for ice cream),” Orr said. “She actually sells lavender as a pick-your-own product for cooking.”

Orr said 60-70 of the display gardens at Fort Hill Farms will be available for visitors to stroll through for the day.

Entertainment

And there’s entertainment.

Fort Hill Farms visitors on Saturday will hear the sounds of [Blackstone Valley Bluegrass](#) — Ken Taylor, of Northbridge, Mass., Dave Dick of Southbridge, Mass., Bob Dick of Northbridge, Mass., and Thompson-native Dan Nowlan on mandolin, guitar and vocals.

Nowlan said he became friends with the Orrs about nine years ago when he and his family moved to Thompson.

“They are neighbors of ours ... one of their fields where they have some of the cows borders our property,” Nowlan said. “One day, one of them had gotten out and we worked together for a few hours trying to get that cow into the corral.” And the two have been friends ever since, leading to Blackstone Valley Bluegrass happily looking forward to performing on a hot day. Nowlan said while he likes blueberries, he’s got something else he can’t wait for.

“I’m looking forward more for the ice cream, to tell the truth,” Nowlan said.

In any case, it should be a good time for everyone, no matter if they’re there for the food, the ice cream or the music. “They’re a great band, they themselves claim they are the best bluegrass band in Connecticut,” Orr said. * “It’s a good local event. Right from the grassroots. We have a very good local band and very good local cream going in to make the ice cream.”

Read more: [Fort Hill Farms hosting blueberry, bluegrass bash - Norwich, CT - The Bulletin](http://www.norwichbulletin.com/archive/x1259733368/Fort-Hill-Farms-hosting-blueberry-bluegrass-bash#ixzz1SsbKNzLR)

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* BVBB Note: We actually said to Peter that we are one of the best bluegrass bands in New England, not the best band in CT. ☺