

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, October 8, 2013

Contact Stacy Benjamin, Maine Farmland Trust: (207) 342-2929

Kennebec Region's Farming Future to be Discussed at Open House and Forum

WINSLOW – John Piotti, executive director of Maine Farmland Trust, will share his view of the future of farming in Maine and make a case for Maine's ability to feed itself and much of New England at the Winslow VFW, Friday, October 25 at 7:00 pm. The Kennebec Region Farming Forum, hosted by the town of Winslow and Maine Farmland Trust, is part of an effort by Winslow to better support its farming community. In addition to the talk by John Piotti, town councilor and local dairy farmer Steve Russell will present the results of a recent survey of farmers in Winslow, and a panel of farmers and farming experts will each provide an overview of their farming operation and share their views about the future of farming in the Kennebec region. Questions from the audience and open discussion will be encouraged.

The event begins with an open house from 5:00 -7:00 pm where information about programs and services available to farmers will be available. The town of Winslow's agriculture working group has been meeting since March to identify ways the town is helping its farming community and explore how it can be even more supportive. Early in its efforts, members recognized that the success of farming in Winslow depends on the success of farming in the greater Kennebec region. This forum will provide an opportunity for working group members to hear from a broader audience. The event will be held at the Winslow VFW on Veteran Drive. Refreshments will be provided.

This is a free community event, co-sponsored by the town of Winslow and Maine Farmland Trust, through a grant from the Lerner Foundation. For more information about the forum, please contact Michael Heavener, Winslow Town Manager at (207) 872-2776 ext 5210 or mheavener@winslow-me.gov or Stacy Benjamin, MFT Municipal Outreach Contractor at (207)342-2929 or sbenjamin@mainefarmlandtrust.org.



John Piotti