

NEWS RELEASE

April 24, 2019

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Clear Lake farmers host field day to showcase micro-creamery

CLEAR LAKE, WIS – At a time when Wisconsin dairy farms are shutting down in record numbers, a pair of intrepid farmers in Clear Lake has carved out a niche by making a sought-after product—artisanal cheeses. Rama Hoffpauir and Josh Bryceson will host a tour of their micro-creamery and share insights with other farmers at a MOSES Organic Field Day Thursday, May 23 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cosmic Wheel Creamery is located at Turnip Rock Farm, 260 95th St., Clear Lake. The event includes lunch from Farm Table Restaurant in Amery, featuring Cosmic Wheel Cheese and other locally grown, seasonal food. While the field day is free, farmers must register in advance at mosesorganic.org/farmstead-micro-creamery.

Hoffpauir and Bryceson will explain how and why they established the micro-creamery and the challenges they had to overcome at the state level—Wisconsin, with its identity rooted in dairy, is the only state that requires a license and formal training to make and sell cheese. They'll also cover how they manage their 20-cow herd to keep costs under control and create the most benefit for their farming system.

The couple started the creamery five years ago to add value to their full-plate CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), which offers members organic vegetables, grass-fed meat, eggs, and cheese. Their CSA model helped the micro-creamery take off by providing a ready market and an existing income stream, Hoffpauir said. The couple also sells wholesale to Twin Cities co-ops, specialty cheese shops, and a few restaurants.

This field day is organized by the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES), a nonprofit organization that provides training, resources, and practical advice to help farmers succeed. Wisconsin Farmers Union is sponsoring the event to draw attention to direct-market creameries as an option for struggling smaller-scale dairy farms.

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PHOTOS: Available online: <https://mosesorganic.org/events/organic-field-days/farmstead-micro-creamery/>

For community calendars:

Begin a Farmstead Micro-Creamery

Thursday, May 23, 2019

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cosmic Wheel

260 95th St., Clear Lake, WI

<https://mosesorganic.org/events/organic-field-days/farmstead-micro-creamery/>