AgNews

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Delaware DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
Serving Agriculture and Protecting Consumers

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Delaware Agritourism Association annual dinner to be held March 16 at 6 PM

Pre-session at 5 PM for new website orientation

The public is invited to attend the Delaware Agritourism Association's annual dinner at 6:00 PM on March 16, 2010, at the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA), 2320 S. Dupont Highway, Dover, DE. Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, and Linda Parkowski, Director of the Delaware Office of Tourism will be the featured speakers. They will address the State's plans to build on the excellent opportunities for increased agritourism in Delaware and the Mid-Atlantic region. Dinner participants will also have an opportunity to participate in informal discussion with Department of Agriculture Marketing staff and Office of Tourism staff members throughout the evening. **The dinner cost is $20 per person**. To reserve a seat, please by call Marie Mayor, President of the Delaware Agritourism Association at 302-684-1602.

Agritourism offers Delaware farmers an opportunity to keep the family on the farm and the farm in the family, by increasing farm incomes. It also provides the public with excellent opportunities to learn where their food comes from and to participate in family oriented recreational activities. The Delaware Agritourism Association, in partnership with DDA, the Delaware Tourism Office, and the Cooperative Extension, helps agritourism farmers by developing marketing tools such as workshops, brochures, a website, videos, maps, and advertising. The content of upcoming workshops and conferences for the 2010 membership year (March 16, 2010 – March 15, 2011) will be a topic of discussion at the March 16 Annual Dinner. For example, one upcoming workshop will identify tools to help farmers assess their farms' assets to promote agritourism in Delaware.

The Annual Dinner will be preceded by an optional pre-session at 5:00 P.M. to orient Association members to the new Delaware Agritourism Association website. Association members will be given both a link for their farms on the website and a page on the website to describe the activities on each member's farm. Each member will also receive instructions on how to update the Association's Website Event Calendar, enabling each member to highlight the dates of his or her respective farm activities and programs.

The presenter for the pre-session is Pat Coluzzi, Coluzzi Consulting Services, Rehoboth Beach, DE. Ms. Coluzzi is a member of the Association and is the webmaster for the Association. She will be pleased to answer your questions after her presentation. Reservations for the pre-session are $15.00 for non-members and free to Association members.

The evening will be an important step in making Delaware Agritourism an even stronger contributor to the First State. For more information contact Marie Mayor at 302-684-1602.