



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW YEAR, SAME RESOLUTION TO HELP MAINE FAMILIES IN NEED

Dairy Farmers of America and Pineland Farms Dairy continue program with Good Shepherd Food Bank

BANGOR, Maine – With everyone’s 2021 resolutions well under way, two organizations will continue a resolution of their own to support vigorous efforts to end hunger in Maine through the help of local farmers.

Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) and Pineland Farms Dairy Company plan to donate 12,000 pounds of handcrafted cheese to Good Shepherd Food Bank in the coming weeks. This donation is part of an initiative that began in the spring of 2020 to aid relief efforts for Maine families—and businesses—hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The details of the new donation are as follows:

- DFA donated two tankers of milk last week collected from local dairy farmers
- Pineland Farms Dairy has put this milk into production and will donate the labor and other processes necessary to make the cheese
- Good Shepherd Food Bank is expected to begin picking up the 12,000-pound donation from the Pineland Farms Dairy facility at 1 Milk St. in Bangor by the end of this month

As a result of this partnership, food-insecure Mainers will have access to nutritious, high-quality food made possible by generous farmers and business owners. Pineland Farms Dairy president Mark Whitney expressed the company’s commitment to this cause.

“This is a partnership with Maine farms and Pineland Farms Dairy giving back to our communities through Good Shepherd, getting food into the hands of those who need it,” Whitney said. “It really is a team effort.”

“As a dairy cooperative owned by family farmers across the country, we are pleased to partner with our members to support the communities in which we live and work,” said Jennifer Huson, Senior Director, Council Affairs for DFA Northeast.

Before the pandemic, Maine had approximately 180,000 people struggling with food insecurity. The need only increased as more community members were facing hunger—many for the first time. Good Shepherd Food Bank was grateful for a new partnership with Pineland Farms Dairy, made possible by local DFA members.

With an initial donation pledge of 25,000 pounds of cheese over several months, Good Shepherd Food Bank began weekly distributions to its network of more than 500 partner agencies. This included food pantries, meal sites, shelters and schools. Pineland Farms Dairy surpassed this goal by donating over 34,000 pounds of cheese in just four weeks.

But these organizations didn't stop there. Kristen Miale, president of Good Shepherd Food Bank, shared her gratitude for the additional donations that were pledged in the new year.

“We are so grateful and excited to continue this partnership,” Miale said. “The donated cheese from Pineland Farms and DFA will reduce food waste and provide our neighbors in need with access to Maine-produced products.”

Note to Editor

High-resolution images are available upon request.

About Pineland Farms Dairy Company

Since 2005 Pineland Farms Dairy Company has been producing all-natural, handcrafted cheeses with 100% Maine milk from local family farms. They expanded operations to their state-of-the-art facility in Bangor in 2017 and currently produce an average 1 million pounds of small-batch, artisan cheeses annually. From their signature Cheddars and Jacks to Feta crumbles and flavored curds, Pineland Farms Dairy remains committed to their mission of “Maine Cows. Maine Milk. Maine Cheese.” For more information, please visit www.pinelandfarmsdairy.com.

About Dairy Farmers of America

Dairy Farmers of America is a national, farmer-owned dairy cooperative focusing on quality, innovation and the future of family dairies. While supporting and serving more than 13,000 family farmers, DFA works with some of the world's largest food companies to develop ingredients that satisfy their customers' cravings while staying committed to social responsibility and ethical farming. For more information, please visit www.dfamilk.com.

About Good Shepherd Food Bank

As the largest hunger-relief organization in Maine, Good Shepherd Food Bank provides for Mainers facing hunger by distributing nutritious food to more than 500 partner agencies across the state, including food pantries, meal sites, schools, health care centers, and senior programs. Together with its network, the Food Bank leads a statewide effort to combat the root causes of hunger by engaging in advocacy, nutrition education and strategic partnerships. In Fiscal Year 2020, the Food Bank distributed more than 27 million meals to families, children, and seniors in need throughout Maine. For more information, please visit www.gsfb.org.

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