

Rural Health Initiative

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sip, Sample, and Socialize at 5th Annual Wine & Cheese Tasting

Annual signature fundraiser to support health & safety of local farming community

Join us for a fun-filled evening at the 5th Annual Rural Health Initiative Wine & Cheese Tasting on Friday, April 22 at Crystal Falls Banquet Hall in New London. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the event running until 10 p.m. All proceeds stay local.

This year's event will feature 38 varieties of wines, four local brews and 25-plus kinds of local cheeses. The wine selection will range from fruity to sweet to sparkling, medium to full-bodied, and include both red and white. Pigeon River Brewing will serve their top fan favorites. Complimentary water and soda also available.

The Rural Health Initiative handpick the cheese selection from eight local distributors, guaranteed to satisfy your taste buds. Explore the finest varieties, including classic colby and cheddar to havarti, cupola, american grana, salsa-jack, and many others.

New to this year's event is the quesadilla cook off, the Rural Health Initiative cash raffle, and Lucky Udders. Three local teams will compete to win your vote of best recipe. Top prize of the cash raffle is \$1,000 with 12 additional payouts ranging from \$500 to \$50. The drawing will be held on at 9:00p.m. Buy a Lucky Udders paddle stick for a 1-in-20 chance to win \$100.

The energetic, social crowd sets this event apart, said Rhonda Strebels, executive director of the Rural Health Initiative.

"Many banquets I attend this time of year have me seated at a table looking at people I know from afar, whereas this event has everyone mingling around socializing trying cheese with a glass of wine," she said. "You might be talking with a business person, a farmer and a doctor all in the same circle - no one notices any differences. It's just good people out for a good cause."

In addition to the food and drinks, there are several activities including the Money Tree, Wine Pull, Every 10!, basket raffle and the unique silent auction items. Complimentary soda and water also available.

Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Tickets can be purchased in-person, online, or via mail. Tickets can be purchased in Outagamie County at Greenstone Financial in Little Chute or Festival Foods in New London. In Waupaca County, tickets can be purchased at all Premier Community Bank and First State Bank locations. To purchase tickets online or download the event flyer, visit www.wiruralhealth.org.

Major event sponsors include First State Bank, Milk Source, Larsen Cooperative, Waupaca County Dairy Promotions, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Dr. John Mielke, and Outagamie County Dairy Promotions. Such generosity allows for 100 percent of event proceeds to go directly back into the Rural Health Initiative to continue its mission aimed at improving and sustaining the health and safety of farm families.

The Rural Health Initiative delivers complimentary, convenient, and confidential *Kitchen Wellness* to local farmers and their families, and agribusinesses. *Kitchen Wellness* provides on-site

preventive health screening, which includes immediate test results for cholesterol, blood sugar, and blood pressure. The Rural Health Initiative's Outreach Health Coordinators are trained healthcare professionals that can answer questions about health concerns and provide information on diet, exercise, and other ways to stay healthy, in addition to many other referral resources within the community.

To learn more about the Rural Health Initiative, visit www.wiruralhealth.org, follow the Rural Health Initiative on Facebook and Twitter, or call the main office at [715-524-1488](tel:715-524-1488).

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