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**Contact: Ali Mangkang, Media Coordinator  
828-280-9284 or [alimangkang@gmail.com](mailto:alimangkang@gmail.com)**

***Tickets on Sale for 6th Annual Carolina Mountain Cheese Fest  
Presented by the WNC Cheese Trail***

(Asheville, NC February 19, 2020) - For the sixth consecutive year, the WNC Cheese Trail celebrates local food and makers during the Carolina Mountain Cheese Fest - scheduled for Sunday, April 26, 2020 on the grounds of Highland Brewing located in Asheville, NC. Early entry tickets begin at 12 noon and general admission begins at 1 p.m. The festival ends at 5 p.m.

"We are proud to introduce so many great cheeses and other locally-made products to our guests, and invite them to explore and purchase food made by their own neighbors" says Katie Moore, executive director of the WNC Cheese Trail.

The Meadow at Highland Brewing is the festival's main hub showcasing more than 20 local food businesses representing cheese, charcuterie, crackers, breads, chocolate, and other products. Featured cheesemakers from the WNC Cheese Trail include: Blue Ridge Mountain Creamery, English Farmstead Cheese, Looking Glass Creamery, Round Mountain Creamery, Three Graces Dairy, Spinning Spider Creamery and Yellow Branch Cheese; alongside other regional cheesemakers from around the Southeast.

Demos and workshops, included with festival admission, are scheduled throughout the day. Skilled artisans and educators will present on a variety of topics from creating the perfect cheese board to soapmaking and more.

Returning this year is the popular Chef Competition where local chefs battle to interpret this year's theme of "Brunch Bites" and take home the Food Critics and People's Choice awards. Moore explains that "The People's Choice winner is chosen by attendees who purchase a judging ticket, sample the chefs' creations and place a vote for their favorite. It has become a festival favorite every year."

For a small additional cost, guests can also enjoy pairings featuring cheese from WNC Cheese Trail members and beverages from Highland Brewing, Noble Cider, TreeRock Social Cider House, and 5 Walnut Wine Bar.

Carolina Mountain Cheese Fest will also feature mellow acoustic entertainment, as well as a family tent where kids and their grown-ups can enjoy crafts and other hands-on activities. Families can also visit the Kid Corral to pet baby goats and (weather permitting) watch milking demonstrations.

Guests are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance. Early entry tickets (\$25/person) include on-site parking and admission to the festival at Noon. General admission tickets (\$14/person) include admission to the festival at 1 p.m. Free off-site parking and shuttle service will be provided. Children under the age of 12 are admitted free of charge with a ticketed guest. If the festival does not sell out in advance, general admission tickets will go on sale at the door at 12:45 p.m. for \$20 plus fees if using a credit card. Please check the website [www.mountaincheesefest.com](http://www.mountaincheesefest.com) to plan your day and purchase tickets.

**The Carolina Mountain Cheese Fest is the WNC Cheese Trail's largest annual event. The WNC Cheese Trail was established in 2012 as a nonprofit association to promote the production and sale of WNC cheeses, facilitate consumer education, and encourage tourism to the region.**

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Photos available upon request. Interviews may be scheduled with cheesemakers in advance.

Partner & Sponsor opportunities are still available.

Please contact Ali Mangkang - **828-280-9284 or [alimangkang@gmail.com](mailto:alimangkang@gmail.com)** for more information.