



fall 2015

5. Connecticut Cheese Plate: Cato Corner Farm, Oak Leaf Dairy, and Woodstock Hill Preserves

Among our favorite Connecticut cheese makers are [Cato Corner Farm](#), (178 Cato Corner Rd., Colchester) making aged cow's milk cheeses, and Oak Leaf Dairy, crafting fresh and aged goat's milk cheeses (68 Bogg Lane, Lebanon).

Also, we are currently obsessed with [Woodstock Hill](#) Smoked Fruit Preserves. Woodstock Hill is the oldest preserves company in Connecticut (651 Brickyard Rd., Woodstock) but remains among the most innovative. This summer, they introduced a line of preserves made with fruit gently smoked over aromatic wood: Smoked Peach Bourbon Chipotle, Smoked Mango Pineapple, Smoked Cherry Bomb, Smoked Strawberry with aged Balsamic Vinegar, and Smoked Pear Preserve.

We charged cheese maker Mark Gillman of Cato Corner Farm with creating some Thanksgiving cheese plate suggestions showcasing all three makers. Here are the results:

Smoked Cherry Preserve pairs wonderfully with a mild, creamy cheese like Cato Dutch Farmstead or fresh Chevre from Oak Leaf served on a water cracker or plain sourdough bread.

Serve **Smoked Pear Preserve** with Cato Bloomsday or Oak Leaf Aged Goat's Milk Cheddar and some toasted almonds. Try serving the cheese on a slice of a crisp Bosc pear with the preserve spread on top.

Mark suggests serving **Cato Corner Aged Bloomsday** with Smoked Mango Pineapple Preserve. The cheddar-y bite of the cheese

balances the fruit flavor nicely. Serve on a slice of apple - something crisp but with moderate sweetness like Empire or Rome; this combo handles walnuts well.

Cato Corner Hooligan is a fabulous pairing with Smoked Peach Bourbon Chipotle Preserves. The cheese is strong enough to handle the pepper heat and still shine through.

Finally, serve **Cato Corner Black Ledge Blue** with Smoked Strawberry with Balsamic Vinegar Preserve and a slice of raisin-walnut sourdough. Try to sneak a slice of an Empire apple between the cheese and the bread!

Cato Corner and Oak Leaf Dairy cheeses and Woodstock Hill Preserves will all be available at the [Feast & Fiddle Harvest Market](#).

