

Rocky Ford melon growing season kicks off with a taste of summer in a Crenshaw melon beer

Banded Oak Hiramkata Farms Crenshaw Melon IPA is on tap for brewery's second anniversary

Friday, June 8, 2018 — Three quarts of juice-- all that's left of last season's harvest of Hiramkata Farms-grown Crenshaw melon-- is the finishing touch for the limited edition, early season release of Banded Oak's Hiramkata Farms Crenshaw Melon IPA. The unique local collaboration will be available on tap at Banded Oak starting Saturday starting at noon for their 2nd anniversary party, complete with food trucks and live music.

Banded Oak and Hiramkata Farms partnered on the Crenshaw IPA last summer, but this is the first time it's been released to kick off the beginning of the growing season.

"Fresh ingredients make good beer," says Banded Oak owner Will Curtin. "Working with a local family farm like Hiramkata Farms gives us these fantastic and fresh Crenshaw melons so we can brew the best possible beer."

The beautifully balanced India Pale Ale leans toward a West Coast-style IPA while staying true to Colorado with the addition of Rocky Ford's Hiramkata Farms Crenshaw melon. The Crenshaw's flavor is similar to the famed Rocky Ford Cantaloupe, but slightly sweeter with a noticeable spice.

"We love working with Banded Oak Brewing on this project," says Hiramkata Farms co-owner Michael Hiramkata. "It's a collaboration that works really well to introduce Rocky Ford melons and our family farm's story to eaters and drinkers who care about where their food comes from and how it's grown."

Hiramkata Farms of Rocky Ford, Colorado is a 5th generation family of farmers who grow Rocky Ford Cantaloupe, watermelon, honeydew, and pumpkins, in addition to the Crenshaw melons used in the IPA.



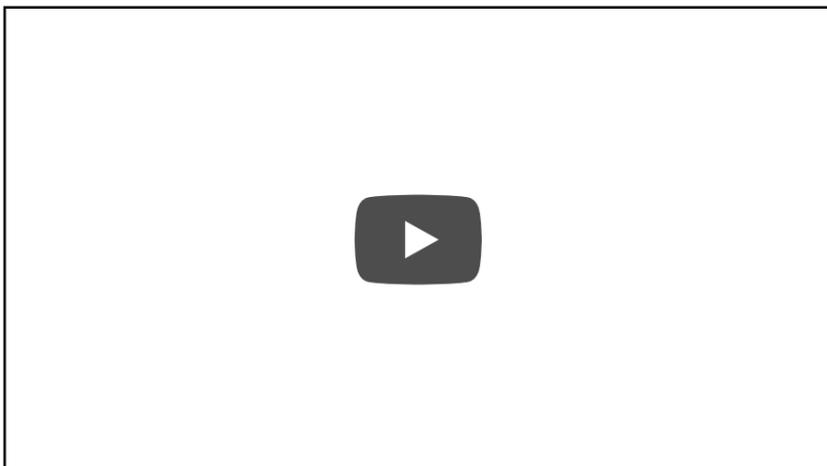
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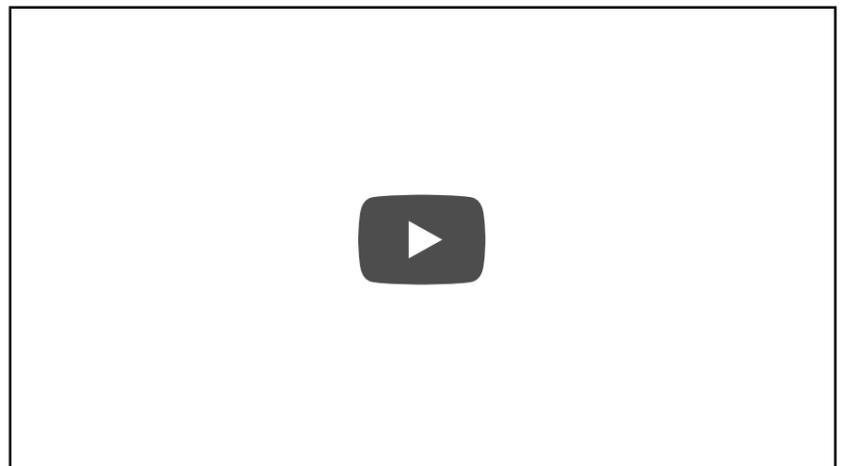
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Banded Oak Hiramkata Farms Crenshaw Melon IPA interview with owner Will Curtin

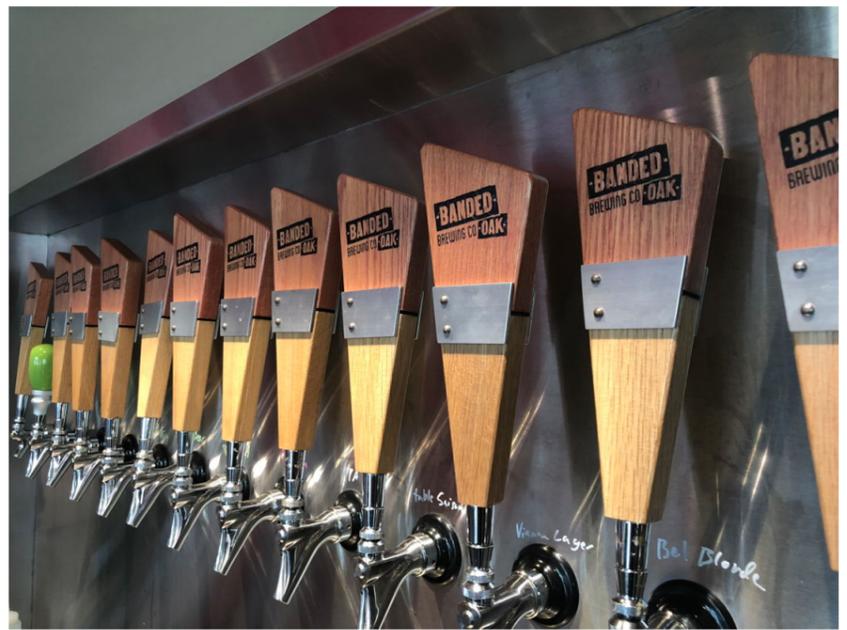


Banded Oak Hiramkata Farms Crenshaw Melon IPA juice mixing broll



Banded Oak Hiramata Farms Crenshaw Melon IPA interview with head brewer Chris Kirk





ABOUT HIRAKATA FARMS

Hirakata Farms is committed to bringing our customers safe and quality produce. Our family farm covers more than 1200 acres around Rocky Ford Colorado's Arkansas Valley. We consider ourselves stewards of this land that we've been so very fortunate to farm for more than 100 years. We're dedicated to using our water and other natural resources wisely to ensure that future generations benefit from our legacy.

hirakatafarms.com

We are, and always have been committed to the safety and integrity of our produce. Hirakata Farms is a member of the Rocky Ford Growers Association and the lead packer for Rocky Ford Cantaloupe™, a melon which has had a perfect safety record since 1887. When you see the Hirakata Farms/Rocky Ford Growers Association sticker you will know our cantaloupes, watermelons, and honeydews have been grown and packaged following stringent national safety procedures.

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