



Weekly Farmer's Market News June 21, 2008

Holiday schedule changes

By Darla Huffman

Jaspers annual Independence Day celebration, sponsored by the Lions Club, will be highlighted by the parade on the 4th of July and feature entertainment for the whole family at Lee Newton Park from July 2 to July 6. Consequently, there will be no farmers market on Saturday, July 5. Enjoy the fun, and buy your vegetables the Wednesday before and after. One other change is on Wednesday, July 2; the farmers market will be located at the back of Lee Newton Park. You can drive in the back entrance on Burton Street and park in the designated areas.

Tomato and squash growers are watching their gardens for the “big one” to enter in the annual Biggest Big Ole Tomato and Longest Summer Squash contest that begins July 12 and continues every Saturday through the last week in August when the grand prize winner will be determined. Any locally grown tomato or squash is eligible; just be there at 10:00 for the weekly judging. Last years winners were; longest squash, Kelly Johnson with a 41 inch horseshoe shaped zucchini and biggest tomato; Peggy and Gene Jordon with a 2 lb. 1.2 oz. monster.

Sharing a booth at the Wednesday market, new vendors Elizabeth Ereddia and Michelle McGowen had something different to share. Elizabeth is a certified massage therapist who offered chair massage, if you wanted to take a break from shopping, and also her homemade pampering products such as bath salts, scrubs and oils. Michelle upgrades thrift store clothing by adding appliqué and other frills to make one of-a-kind wearables.

Saturdays market also had new craft vendors. Tonya Hester was at the market with her daughters Amber and Morgan and her sister Tammy Gillespie. Tonya and Tammy have a company called “Imagine a Mural” where in addition to

murals they do faux finishing. At the market they were selling clever decorative signs with something for everyone from witty to inspirational.

Lydia Lingerfelt, a sophomore at Pickens High School and an enterprising young photographer had some of her work for sale Saturday that looked very professional and ready to enhance any home décor.

A vendor well known for her shade plants had a delicious new product; Mimi Tritt was serving Fancy Fruit Sorbets. She had peach or strawberry in a cup or a cone and it was very popular, even early, on a cool morning.

In other market news; Mark Harrison had his hair cut. He did it, he said, at his fathers request but that it had cost him some of his friends who no longer recognized him. Fortunately, he could still be recognized at the farmers market by his variety of interesting plants, including wild geraniums, northern maiden hair ferns and lace cap hydrangeas.

For those of you who would like to preserve some of the fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables that will be available at the farmers market this summer but lack the time or inclination to do it at home, the Pickens County Canning Plant will be opening on July 1. Canning along with other methods of preserving foods; freezing, drying, pickling and making jams, jellies and relishes can be used to enhance winter menus and save on food dollars. The County Extension Office has publications with directions to help you do all of the above.

The Jasper Farmers market is held on Wednesday and Saturday. The hours are 7:30 to 12:30 for both. The Saturday market will continue until October 28 with the exception of July 5 and Oct 4; the Wednesday market goes through August 27. The location is the Park & Ride Lot, beside Lee Newton Park, off of Highway 53, near downtown Jasper, Georgia. Only handmade or homegrown products can be sold at the Jasper Farmers Market. Watch this newspaper for any exceptions to time or location and other up to date information regarding the farmers market or go to the Master Gardener web site at www.pickensmg.com. For questions on growing or preserving vegetables or other farm related subjects call the Pickens County Agents office at 706 253 8840.

See Photos Below:



Fun signs shown here by Tammy Gillespie, Amber, Morgan and Tonya Hester



Massage therapist Elizabeth Ereddia looks on as Michelle McGowen displays a re-created shirt



Pickens High School student and photographer Lydia Lingerfelt shows some of her work



A newly shorn Mark Harrison has both native and exotic plants for sale



Mimi Tritt dishes up a frozen treat