



Weekly Farmer's Market News June 25, 2008

No Jasper Farmers Market on July 5

Lots of vegetables every Wednesday

By Darla Huffman

There will be a Farmers Market on Saturday, June 28 and all the Wednesday markets will continue through August, but on July 2 the location will change just a little. Instead of being in the Park n Ride Lot, the market will move to the back of Lee Newton Park.

The Wednesday market on June 25 had some of the first local tomatoes and okra of this season; green beans, potatoes, yellow squash and zucchini were plentiful. Winfred and Betty Waldrip had a beautiful display of vegetables including some large zucchini. Winfred asked when the longest summer squash contest would begin, as he had one he intended to leave to grow bigger, until Betty picked it, but he added that was no problem as there were plenty more and they grow fast. The contest, which includes both yellow squash and zucchini, will begin on July 12. That will also be the start of the Biggest Big Ole Tomato contest and they will both be judged every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. through the last of August.

Adam Burton, a student at Pickens High School, is too young to drive his produce to market but not too young to grow it, pick it and sell it. He even suggested a recipe for squash patties to go with the squash he was selling. His grandfather came along to chauffeur and make sure all the gardening credit went to his grandson.

Beautiful sunflowers were a welcome site at the market Wednesday morning. Marie Tromblee had two big buckets full along with her usual array of garlic in all sizes.

Lorie Childers and her brother Cole Johnson grow a lot of vegetables, working together to plant and harvest and sell them at the farmers market. This week they had squash, potatoes, cucumbers and beans with more to come in the weeks ahead.

With all the many good things available in the farmers market now, it would be a good time to consider making salsa, pasta sauce, chili or casseroles to freeze or can for quick meals later on. It's more efficient to cook in large batches; it may save a trip to the store this winter and you can enjoy the convenience of prepared foods without the added expense.

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.



Adam Burton with his grandfather J.C. Higtower



Beans and more raised by Cole Johnson, Lorie Childer and her daughters Lane and Mary Joe



Joe Pinson lives with his parents Bo and Peggy Pinson in Ellijay and helps with the garden



Sunflowers brighten Bethany farms booth tended by Marie Tromblee



Winfred Waldrip waits on a customer while Betty looks on