



Weekly Farmer's Market News

August 2, 2008

By Kathy Bell

With a total of 66 vendors, another great market was enjoyed by all, on Saturday. The park & ride lot was a colorful sea of tents and umbrellas and bustling with people. The number of fruits and vegetables producing vendors is astounding. Strolling through the market one could see and purchase fruits like peaches, apples, blueberries, grapes, blackberries, watermelons and cantaloupes. And there were abundant amounts of vegetables like corn, green beans, tomatoes, peppers, squash and cucumbers. There was some okra, and Bob Gordon had some peas, but they were bought up fast. The okra will be plentiful soon it's just started coming in. Frank & Debbie Mullinax from the Ball Creek area had yellow-meated watermelons, blue lake and ½ white runner green beans & beautiful large peaches. Harry and Shirley Patterson had muskmelons as well as cantaloupes, tomatoes, peppers & squash. Danny & Jerry Poole had plenty of blueberries, tomatoes, green beans & squash.

The craft and specialty vendors at our market are so amazing - such a group of talented and unique people. A visitor at the Jasper Farmer's Market has wonderful choice of items to choose from like breads, cakes, granola, fried pies, a huge variety of jellies, eggs, honey, fresh popped kettle corn, boiled peanuts, sorbets, lemonade, doggie treats, wooden indoor and outdoor furniture, painted wooden items, birdhouses, soaps, lotions, and creams, leather journals and pouches, walking sticks, native and landscape plants and houseplants, jewelry, artwork, handmade bows and accessories, purses and the more.

The biggest tomato winner this week was Gene and Peggy Jordan with a "Big Zac" weighing 1 lb 13.3 oz. And Hoss and Margaret Edge won the longest summer squash contest with a zucchini measuring 22". The "Biggest Tomato" and "Longest Summer Squash" contests will end on August 30th and the grand winners

for 2008 will be named. The "Longest Winter Squash Contest" is open now, to anyone, who has one ready for harvest and this contest will continue until Sept.27th.

Please don't forget that our Wednesday market has a lot of produce also and your support for this mid-week market is needed. The vegetables are coming in so fast at this time of the year and they must be harvested. This may be a good time to pick up larger amounts of fresh produce to freeze or can. If you need information about canning or freezing produce, please stop by the County Extension office or visit the UGA website for publications about storing fruits and vegetables. The Wednesday market will be ending on Aug 27th, so please make plans to pick up your fresh veggies soon.

The Jasper Farmers' Market is held on Wednesday and Saturday, from 7:30 to 12:30. The Saturday market will continue until Oct. 28 and except for the Marble Festival Saturday on Oct 4th and the Wednesday market will continue until August 27th. The markets are located in the Park & Ride Lot beside Lee Newton Park, just off of Highway 53 near downtown Jasper. For questions on growing or preserving vegetables or other farm- related subjects call or visit the Pickens County Extension Office at 706 253 8840 or visit the UGA publications website - www.caes.uga.edu/publications. For more information about the farmers' market - please visit the Master Gardeners' website at www.pickensmg.com. Only handmade or homegrown products can be sold at the Jasper Farmers' Market.

See photos below:



Big tomato winner Peggy and Gene Jordan



Big squash winner Margaret & Hoss Edge



Vegetables are plenty at the Market



A full Market!!!



Frank Mullinax and daughter Sue



The Cantrell's with a great variety of produce



And more produce!!!