



Weekly Farmer's Market News

Summer vegetables abound at the Jasper Farmers Market

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By Darla Huffman

It was summer on the calendar but a hint of fall was in the air on a windy, partly cloudy day at the Jasper Farmers Market last Saturday. Another sign of fall was pumpkins for sale and the first contestant in the Longest Winter Squash contest. Terry Berrier had grown the squash; it was round and orange but it was not a pumpkin and was 13 inches long. This contest will continue until the end of September. Another unusual squash won the Longest Summer Squash contest; an Italian variety that climbs a trellis and makes an attractive and eatable addition to the garden with its long, skinny, green fruits. Peggy Jordan, the grower, said that she and Gene liked to eat it sliced raw like a cucumber. At 27 inches this immigrant squash now leads all others going into the final week of the longest summer squash contest. The Jordan's also won this week's Biggest Big Ole Tomato contest with a 2 pound 1.1 ounce entry and have the potential champion with the 2 pound 4.8 ounce winner on August 9. If you have a big squash, summer or winter, or a big tomato you would like to bring in to challenge these heavyweights, be there next Saturday with your vegetable at 10:00 a.m. The overall winner for both of these contests will be announced after the final weekly weigh-in on Saturday, August 30.

What could herald the end of summer more than the end of the Wednesday Farmers Market on August 27? But there will still be plenty of vegetables at the Saturday market, which will continue through the end of October. Many of our vendors have fall gardens underway. It's not too late for you to grow some vegetables in your own backyard this winter; spinach, lettuce, peas and broccoli all prefer the cooler weather of fall. It could possibly be the best food you have ever tasted. If you need gardening advice the Pickens County Agent can be reached at 706 253 8840.

Fall is also the best time to make any additions to your landscape and with many market vendors selling landscape plants there are a variety of healthy, locally grown choices. If you have ever wished that when you buy a new plant you could also buy the hole to plant it in you might want to talk to Camille Morgan. She not only sells plants at the market but also does landscape installation, maintenance, and design. With many years of experience she help you decide what plant best suits your yard.

Several vendors had watermelons this week; Revere and Joy Fowler had a whole trailer load of green on green striped ones with some tasty samples that convinced a lot a people to take

one home. They had often sold corn at the market but this was the first time they had grown watermelons with evidently great success.

Chris Wright and his mother, Linda Cantrell work together at their cabinet shop, Burnt Mountain Woodwork. They brought their handiwork with them; selling at the farmers market for the first time, cupboards and chests made of pine either finished or unfinished and made with a simple elegance that would address the storage demands for many situations. They also had a variety of jams, jellies and fried pies, made, not by mom, the biased conclusion that we reluctantly admit we first jumped to, but by Chris; mom claiming no talents but that of woodworker.

The Jasper Farmers market is held on Saturday mornings from 7:30 to 12:30 and will continue until October 28 with the exception of Oct 4. 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. Go to the Master Gardener web site at www.pickensmg.com for market rules and the latest news and pictures. For questions on growing or preserving vegetables or other farm related subjects call the Pickens County Agents office at 706 253 8840.



The first winter squash competition was won by Terry Berrier



Furniture and food from Burnt Mountain Woodwork's Linda Cantrell and son, Chris Wright



Gene Jordan holds the unusual squash and Peggy has a big ugly tomato, this weeks contest winners



Revere and Joy Fowler with a trailer load of watermelons



Offering a wide variety of landscape services, Camille Morgan also sells plants at the farmers market