



Weekly Farmer's Market News

Winter vegetables and unique gifts available thru October at the Jasper Farmers Market

September 20, 2008

By Darla Huffman

Winter vegetables are showing up in greater variety and abundance every week at the Jasper Farmers Market. Michelle Foster of Dig It Farms was back this week, after a few weeks of football related absences, with lettuce and the promise of other fall greens on the way.

Two new vendors were selling baked goodies and giving away crowd pleasing free samples. Nicole Farrier lives only a few blocks from the market, but this was her first venture into selling her banana and smashing blueberry bread (the secret to its goodness is you smash the berries). The sellout of her first effort has encouraged her to make more for next week.

Coming from Turkey some 35 years ago to Seattle, Washington, Ozkan Erden and his wife, Noor operated a coffee shop before moving to Marietta, Georgia a few years back, where they are now living and baking some of the wonderful traditional foods from their homeland. They had sweets made with filo dough, (baklava) and turnovers filled with spinach or other vegetables. I hope we made the drive up from Marietta worth their while and that we will see them again.

McKenzie Cain came to the market with her grandparents, Mack and Sylvia Cagle from Canton, and was not at all shy about trying out the rocking horse at Roy Stanaland's booth. Other kid pleasing items that Roy makes are toy trucks with wooden animals and child size picnic tables, along with gift ideas for grownup such as birdhouses or vegetable bins with wire door fronts. And when you shop at the market for locally produced goods there is never any shipping or assembly required.

This weeks Longest Winter Squash winner was Emily Morgan of Angels Walk Farm. There is just one more chance for you to bring in your big butternut or other winter squash to enter the competition that will be held at 10:00a.m. The contest will end September 27 and the season's winner will be determined and prize awarded. That's all the contests for this year but the farmers market will be open every Saturday in October with the exception of the 4th, when it will close for the Marble Festival. The last 3 Saturdays in October will be an opportunity to buy locally grown plants for landscaping, vegetables for eating or preserving or carving jack-o-lanterns and crafts for decorating your home or to use for gifts. What ever you buy at the Jasper

Farmers Market is required to be locally home grown or handmade and of course is “as green as you can get”!

Also coming in October is the Master Gardeners, “Creating a Successful Vegetable Garden” course consisting of 3 classes on consecutive Thursday evenings; October 2nd, 9th, and 16th. This will be a free educational opportunity that is open to the general public. Because one of the most frequent mistakes gardeners make is to not test their soil there will be a free soil test offered to participants. Don’t miss this chance to learn how to contribute to your family’s health and finances by growing your own vegetables. For more information or to register call the Pickens County Agents office at 706 253 8840 or go to the Master Gardener web site at www.pickensmg.com.

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.



Noor and Ozkan Erden serve some Turkish delights to a market customer



Emily Morgan with the winners certificate and a basket full of butternut squash



Test driving Roy Stanalands rocking horse is shopper Mckenzie Cain



Nicloe Farrier offers free samples of her banana or blueberry bread



Famers Market icon, Gene Stewart with a truck load of empty baskets and a table with what's left