



Weekly Farmer's Market News

July 17, 2010

Big Crowd at the Jasper Farmers Market

By Darla Huffman

Both parking lots, the one where the vendors park and the one where the customers park, were full most of the morning. It was the busiest day so far this year and there was plenty of produce to go around. Corn, tomatoes and watermelon were the big sellers this week and a few vendors had blueberries.

Many of the shoppers enjoyed the Educational Event that was prepared and presented by Master Gardeners Debbie Dickson and Anita Rosen who demonstrated some new and interesting ways to use the produce available at the farmers market. After the talk, with some help from their husbands, they gave away samples of all of the recipes they had introduced; Fresh Tomato-Olive Sauce, Blackberry Iced Tea, Summer Vegetable Potato Salad, Deviled Eggs Three Ways, Purple-Hull Pea Salsa and Blueberry Sour Cream Coffee Cake. They also gave away the recipes which will be available at the Master Gardener Table for the next few weeks. They will also be available on the Recipes section of the MG web site (www.pickensmg.com). If you have any special recipes using produce that is available at the farmers market bring us a copy and we will add it to our on line Recipes file.

The Biggest Tomato Contest had eight entries and several of the tomatoes were brought in by young school-age gardeners. The winner was Abigail Butler, with a two pound three ounce beautiful heirloom tomato. Abigail is in the third grade at Tate Elementary and came to the market with her parents Lindsey and Mathew Williams.

The Longest Summer Squash Contest was won by Hoss Edge, a long time vendor at the market who was selling corn and zucchini. His winning squash was nineteen and a half inches long.

You too can enter the big vegetable contest. The only requirement is that you grew it in your garden and that you bring it to the market by 10:00 on Saturday morning. Squash and tomato competition continues until the end of August when the Grand Prize will be awarded. There will be a Longest Winter Squash contest that begins when ever someone has a big winter squash and continue through the end of September.

For more information go to the Master Gardeners web site www.pickensmg.com or call the County Extension Office at 706 253 8840. All products for sale at the market must be handmade or homegrown. The Jasper Farmers Market is held every Saturday morning through

October 30 with the exception of July 3 and October 2 and on Wednesday mornings from June 16 to August 25. The hours for both are 7:30 am to 12 noon. Come and see what is at the market next week!



Summer Squash Contest winner Hoss Edge



Abigail Butler, here with Matthew Williams, wins the Biggest tomato Contest