



## Weekly Farmer's Market News

### Jasper Farmers Market will be back again next year

October 31, 2009

By Darla Huffman

The tenth year of the Jasper Farmers Market came to a close on a wet and rainy Saturday, but overall it has been one of the biggest and best years ever. The “Good by’s” and “See you next year’s” were certainly warm and true, and in just a few months we will all be back for year eleven!

The sun didn’t come out all morning, but there was a bright spot when Mrs. Mary Vinson came to the market. She donated some of her famous cornbread cake and fried apple pies to the party, (they will be missed over the winter) and she had made enough to sell some too. We haven’t seen much of her since her husband’s accident and health problems have kept her close to home, so we were glad she braved the weather and came to see all of her friend at the market.

The Master Gardeners did manage to give a few plants away, although not as many as intended due the weather. Mike King, a new resident of Bent Tree, won a ginkgo tree, so we hope he will be a regular customer at the market next year. Several other dedicated customers took home free plants and many of the vendors who were there early in the rain also won plants as there wasn’t a lot of competition, but who could deserve it more; a small thank you for a big effort.

It has been a very successful year for the market with more vendors than ever, even with the competition from the new Canton Farmers Market. The farmers market concept is such a good one; good for the economy; good for the environment that a new one is always a good thing. We are looking forward to the market being even better next year and plan to provide the community with more educational information and events. There will be ten new Master Gardeners by then looking for volunteer opportunities.

In January there will be a farmers market planning meeting. It will be on a Saturday this year so that those who work during the week can attend. It is open to anyone who has an interest in the market, vendors and customers, both current and potential. The opening date for the new season will be determined at this meeting. More details will be in this newspaper and at [www.pickensmg.com](http://www.pickensmg.com) in the Farmers Market section. This web site also has a vendor spotlight area where you might find your favorite vendor if you wanted to contact him/her during the off season.

The farmers market is a project of the Pickens County Master Gardeners and the County Extension Office (706 253 8840). Please contact either for more information. This article and pictures of the weekly farmers market are also available at the aforementioned website.



*Vendors Peggy and Gene Jordan, Gene Stewart and Master Gardener Anita Rosen at a very rainy farmers market*



*Master Gardener Jim Nickell gives Mike King some advice on planting the ginkgo tree he has just won*



*Farmers Market favorite, Mrs Mary Vinson with her friend Kathy Hester*