




GROWER NOTES*

August 17, 2009

TO: Foothills Farmers' Market Vendors

FROM: 
Greg Traywick,
County Extension Director


Jonathan Dyer,
Market Coordinator

Use the "O" Word With Caution

Amy Griner-Stafford, former organic inspector for NC and currently with International Certification Services (www.ics-intl.com), says that there have been a lot of complaints recently regarding farmer's market vendors making organic claims without certification. According to Amy, the USDA is starting to crack down on farms that make any sort of organic claim without being certified if they're clearly over the \$5,000 mark (farms that gross under \$5,000 are allowed to market as organic if they follow the standard). These farms use signs with phrasing like "organically grown" or "organically raised" or "farming organically" or something similar. The USDA is following up on the complaints they're receiving, and if someone is found to be in violation, they may be fined (up to \$10,000 per violation).

Community Table Consignments

Foothills Farmers' Market will be test-piloting consignments to a FHFMM Community Table on Saturdays beginning August 22. These consignment sales should generate additional income for growers/producers who cannot be physically present at the market. Consignments should also benefit the market by increasing the product diversity available to our customers. The Steering Committee has established a list of parameters to govern these consignment sales, and consignors must submit a written pre-application to the market coordinator in order to participate. Complete details are available at www.foothillsfarmersmarket.com.

Sales Tax on Agricultural Products

Several vendors have raised questions about who should be collecting sales tax at the Market, on what, and how much. The NC Department of Revenue has recently revised its policy statement on taxation of agricultural products. We are currently researching this issue and will provide details in a forthcoming Vendor Newsletter, Grower Notes or educational meeting.

Certification Site Visits

Several farms have already successfully complete certification site visits, thereby ensuring that we "Grow What We Sell". These include: Earl's Produce, Glencora, Lewis Farms, Plant Wise Solutions, Quail Hollow Farms, Rhodesdale Farm, Rock Bottom Farm, Roper's Farm, Rock Bottom Farm, Underwood Family Farms, and Wilson Farm. If you are a current vendor and have not been visit, expect to receive a call from the "inspection team" in the next few days.

New Information Online

Steering Committee minutes and planning documents are now available on the "About The Market" page of the Foothills Farmers' Market website. Visit www.foothillsfarmersmarket.com to learn what the Steering Committee and other work groups are doing. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer for one of these work groups.

Steering Committee

Ted Alexander :: Jo Boggs :: Dr. Sandy Breneman :: Tim Crofts :: Shannon Hovis :: Loyd Lewis :: Wade Nichols
Daniel Shires :: Anne Short :: Jackie Sibley :: Greg Traywick :: Christy Underwood :: Johnny White :: Jonathan Dyer (Market Coordinator)

Certified Vendors

A Way of Life Farm :: After Hours Farm :: B-Flat Farm :: Baskets by Phyllis :: Blueberry Hill Farm :: Clineland Strawberries :: Earl's Produce :: Entropy Acres :: Gayle's Gardens :: Glencora, LLC :: Gourd-eous Gourds :: Heavner Farms :: Jefferson Herr Flowers
Hoyle Farms :: Kniceley Farms :: Knob Creek Orchards & Creamery :: Lattimore Farms :: Laura's Jewelry :: Lewis Farms
Lily Beans Micro-Roast Coffee :: Thomas Moore :: New Beginning Farm :: PaPaw's Produce :: Plant Wise Solutions :: Proffitt Family Farms
Quail Hollow Farms :: Red Dirt Ranch :: Rhodesdale Farm :: Rock Bottom Farm :: Roper's Farm :: Sain Farms :: Scoggins Nursery
Stamey Farm :: Tim's Produce :: Underwood Family Farm :: Wilson Farms