



Knox County Farmers' Market Newsletter February 2015 Volume 1

Looking Ahead to 2015

The Knox County Farmers' Market Board would like to congratulate everyone on a very successful first season of the Knox County Farmers' Market! Thanks to everyone who pulled together to make the Market a success! This is the inaugural newsletter of the Knox County Farmer's Market. Through this newsletter we hope to keep you updated on Farmers' Market happenings and opportunities. Please also feel free to submit information for the newsletter to share.

As we begin to look ahead to the 2015 growing season we wanted to share some news and events. The KCFM has now incorporated as a nonprofit organization "to provide an opportunity for local food and craft producers to market high-quality products directly to the consumer." We hope to continue with great partnerships this upcoming season.

In Memoriam

The Knox County Farmers' Market mourns the passing of the Hendrix family. The Hendrix were a great asset to our community and market and will be greatly missed. Their love of bees and their commitment to the community will not be forgotten. Our condolences go out to family and friends.



Important Dates

The Knox County Farmers' Market Board, the Knox County Cooperative Extension, and the Lend-A-Hand Center Grow Appalachia Gardening Program are working hard to provide workshops for farmers and vendors this year. Below is a preliminary list of dates for workshops and events. Please direct questions to the Knox County Extension office or Kathryn Engle.



Dates

Homebased Microprocessor Workshop

Wed, March 4, 9:30am Whitley Co Ext

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Training

Mon, March 16, 6:00pm Laurel Co Ext

General County Ag Meeting

Tues, March 17, 6:00pm Knox Co Ext

KCFM Vendor Meeting

Thurs, March 19, 5:00pm Knox Co Ext

Growing Appalachia Conference

Sat, March 21, 9:00am Jenny Wiley Convention Center

<http://www.kftc.org/growing-appalachia>

Homebased Microprocessor Workshop

Mon, March 23, 9:30 Clay Co Ext

Red Bud Festival

Fri-Sat, April 17-18 Union College

WIC Training

Thurs, April 30, 1:00pm Knox Co Extension

KCFM Market Opening

May 7, All vendors **MUST** be pre-registered.

Preregister at the March 19 meeting or at Redbud

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/knoxcountyfarmersmarket>

General Ag Meeting

The Knox County Cooperative Extension Service in conjunction with the Lend-A-Hand Center Grow Appalachia Gardening Program will be hosting a general meeting for gardeners and farmers. We encourage farmers' market vendors to attend this meeting where we will discuss garden planning, soil samples, conventional and organic production, planting for market, and crop diversification. Join us March 17 6:00pm at the Knox County Extension.

Farmers' Market Vendor Meeting

All farmers, vendors, and crafters wanting to participate in the Knox County Farmers' Market should attend the Farmers' Market Vendor Meeting on **Thursday March 19th at 5:00 at the Knox County Extension Office**. At this meeting we will be discussing the market schedule, vendor agreements, vendor fees, how to accept SNAP (food stamps) with a presentation from Sharon Spencer from the KY Department of Agriculture, navigating certifications, market rules, and ideas for the year. Please spread the word about this important meeting.

Certification Information

At the KCFM, vendors may sell home-grown vegetables, fruits, herbs, flowers, eggs (with restrictions), honey (with restrictions) without any special training or permitting, but it is strongly recommended that producers complete GAP training. If you would like to sell any kind of processed good (baked goods, prepared foods, canned goods, meats, milk) at the KCFM you must obtain the proper certification and have it clearly displayed at your booth at all times. Vendors must also obtain their Sampling Certification to give samples at the market. Please contact the Knox County Extension Office with questions about certifications. Vendors may also sell locally-made crafts upon approval of their craft vendor application.

Accepting SNAP and WIC

In order to expand access to fresh, local produce in Knox County, the KCFM has acquired an EBT (food stamps) machine and will be starting a new program that will allow vendors to accept EBT sales. Customers will run their EBT card at the information table for a specified amount, be given tokens to spend at vendor booths, and then tokens will be turned back at the end of the market to the information booth. Vendors will then be paid by check or direct deposit for the sales

they generated. Details will be given at the vendor meeting. Also vendors interested in accepting WIC vouchers should attend the training on Thursday April 30th at 1:00pm at the Knox County Extension Office.

Red Bud Festival

The KCFM is excited to participate in the Red Bud Festival. Those with a limited amount of product are welcome to share the Knox County Farmers' Market booth space but they must sign up by March 15 and agree to help staff the booth on both days of the event and share the cost of the booth in order to sell their items from the KCFM booth. Space in that booth is limited. Individual booths are also available: for a 10 x 10 space in the gym or space for your own 10x10 tent on the lawn it is a \$75 fee. Anyone interested in being a Redbud vendor should contact Mary Beth Jewell at jewellmarybeth@yahoo.com or 606-627-1810 for an application.

Local Foods, Local Places Grant

We are pleased to update you on the progress of the "Local Foods, Local Places Grant" through the city of Barbourville. We have started the process of conference calls with federal officials and are working on setting a date for a community forum to discuss possibilities for local foods in Knox County and beyond and opportunities for a downtown farm store establishment that could connect customers with local farmers and craftspeople. We are currently gathering a list of community partners that might be involved with the process, so if you or your community group would like to help with this project, please contact Kathryn Engle and we will make sure you are on the list. The community forum should be sometime in June so please be on the lookout for more information.

Knox County Extension Office: (606) 546-3447
Kathryn Engle, LAHC Grow Appalachia: (859) 893-0947



CA Mills' Tomatoes

KCFM Board:
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