



NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS MARKET & GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC

GROWING NORTH DAKOTA

FROM WITHIN

Summer 2008

www.ndfarmersmarkets.com

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Message from President Patti Patrie

Dear NDFMGA Members:

Summer is finally here! We welcome it and the 2008 Farmers Market season with open arms. Due to the cooler spring we had, many markets are starting a little later this year with some of our favorite summer time foods making a delayed appearance for the market customers. We are looking forward to a great season and perhaps the fall will be kind to us and we can have a later season into September and October!

The 2008 market season also brings exciting change to our association. As we continue to see oil prices increase every day, food costs continue their steady climb upward, and news of more food-borne illnesses making headlines, local foods have become an even more important part of consumer diets around the US and the world.

NDFMGA has two exciting announcements for the summer season. The first is that with the help of the ND Dept of Agriculture and the NDSU Extension Service, and many other community volunteers, we will be launching a state-wide economic impact study to get a more detailed look at the economics of the farmers markets operating in North Dakota and what a farmers market can do for communities and producers in our state. We will be conducting surveys at selected markets across the state and we will be talking to both consumers and vendors to get answers to questions about how farmers markets are doing in North Dakota. The surveying will begin the first week in August and extend into the end of the season. The survey will give us results we can compile into a detailed report to present to supporters and legislators when seeking funding to further the cause of farmers markets in North Dakota.

The second announcement is the transition of NDFMGA administrative duties moving from the ND Dept of Agriculture to the Minot State University - Bottineau, Director for the Entrepreneurial Center for Horticulture (ECH), Holly Mawby.

The NDFMGA Board of Directors has approved this move to help free up ND Dept of Agriculture staff to focus on larger events that encompass a broad spectrum of people involved in local foods and farmers markets. This move will also allow ECH to involve the members of NDFMGA in the University's efforts to coordinate and proceed with their local foods initiative of establishing a distribution system for local foods in ND, support community involvement in agriculture, support

farmers markets, and create awareness of local foods available to North Dakotans.

The fit of the NDFMGA with ECH is a good thing and we and the directors at ECH look forward to great results coming from this partnership to further our endeavors and goals in local foods and farmers markets. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Patti Patrie
President

Meet the Executive Director of NDFMGA

Holly Mawby is a native of Minot and currently lives in Churchs Ferry, ND. Holly has a BS degree in Business and Industry Education and an AAS in General Horticulture and Landscape Design. Through her career she has been a horticulture faculty member, horticulturist, college program director, and specialist in research, planning, and development. She has been involved in the field of horticulture for thirty years and is also owner of a small farm production business, gardendwellers FARM, that specializes in fresh herbs and agritourism.

Ms. Mawby is currently serving as the Director of the Entrepreneurial Center for Horticulture, a federally funded University Center, at Minot State University - Bottineau where she facilitates the demonstration, modeling, marketing, networking and fundraising for the Center.

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NDFMGA Welcomes New Board Member

Adrienne Wellman has accepted the nomination to serve as one of the two board members for the Northeast quadrant of the state. She replaces Judy Hartje who has resigned. Adrienne's term will be up in 2009 but she will be eligible to run for a second term if she would like. Adrienne is well-known for "Mrs. Wellman's Homemade Juneberry Pies", her home-based business she operates in her hometown of Cavalier. She sells 4" individual or 9" homemade Juneberry pies, baked fresh or unbaked and frozen for you to bake at home. Adrienne can be found at the Town Square Farmers Markets in Grand Forks on weekends selling her pies. Welcome Adrienne!

ND Dept. of Agriculture & NDFMGA 1st Annual Summer Tour

June 25-26 was the first Summer Tour sponsored by ND Dept of Agriculture, the NDFMGA and University of Minnesota Extension Service. This first tour was a great success with 46 participants! Our tour was guided by Terry Nennich of the University of Minnesota Extension Service who is an expert in high tunnel vegetable production.

The tour departed on June 25th from Grand Forks and the first stop was in Crookston, MN to see the work of the UMN Extension on their organic high tunnel at the edge of town. The group had dinner in Crookston then traveled on to Thief River Falls where they stayed overnight. The tour resumed bright and early the next morning.

At the Thief River Falls site the group saw a tunnel that has been planted for the third year. It is a 20x48 tunnel planted with tomatoes, cucumbers and a variety of other vegetables and flowers that displayed a different type of trellising system that growers can easily construct at home.

From there the group continued on to Erskine, MN, a site which had a tunnel that was newly planted this spring and was 26x48 in size. The owners and growers gave a gracious tour of their beautiful farm and amazing tunnel which had 5 foot corn and hip-high tomato plants already loaded with green tomatoes! Here the group learned about construction costs and was able to see some beginning planting schemes that work well in high tunnels.

The final stop was at Ter-Lee Gardens near Bagley where the group explored four different high tunnels. The first two, both size 14x98 were built in 1999 are low profile inexpensive tunnels built and designed from Atlas Cold Frames. These were the first experimental tunnels built here. One tunnel had tomatoes, garlic and onions the other had over 30 varieties of peppers.

If you are interested in constructing your own high tunnel for season extension, please call Terry Nennich with UMN Extension at (218)281-8690 or email him at nenni001@umn.edu.

The Minnesota High Tunnel Production Manual for Commercial Growers published by University of Minnesota Extension Service, 2004, is available for purchase at this link

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/M1218.html> and includes the following chapters by Terrance T. Nennich

- Fertility and Fertigation Management - High Tunnel Production.
- Irrigation water management considerations and soil moisture monitoring tools for high tunnel production.
- Managing Risk with High Tunnels.
- Organic Production in High Tunnels.

New Look for 2008 Directory and Website

Be sure to get the 2008 Farmers Market Directory now available at the ND Dept of Agriculture. It has a new look this year and is easier to use. The new directory is a state map with all vendors and markets in the state listed and located on the map, making it easier for you to find the market closest to home. The NDFMGA website has the new look as well!

Check it out today at www.ndfarmersmarkets.com

NDFMGA Featured Grower

Casey and Jenna Murphy

Last summertime found Jenna and Casey Murphy of Carrington looking for an enjoyable way to make some money. It seemed that growing a garden and selling at a Farmers Market would be a great idea. Little did they know how much they would both put into and take from the experience.

With a little help from dad, mom, friends and family, Jenna and Casey worked together to grow a large garden with everything from acorn squash to watermelon. They also made homemade jellies and salsa. The Murphy's had a great year and learned much about working together.

This year they have made some changes. Casey (13) is into the sweet corn production, while Jenna (17) has focused on growing everything for salsa, their most popular product last year. They have been blessed with excellent weather and are looking forward to a great harvest.

The Murphy's don't have a set selling schedule, but frequent the Chieftain Motel and Runnings parking lots in Carrington. In the Fall, they plan to attend the Carrington JunkFest and outdoor flea market to sell their produce. Anyone interested in purchasing their produce can call their home at (701) 652-1107.

They wish all growers a blessed and abundant harvest!

NDFMGA Market Feature

Mandan Farmers Market

The Mandan Farmers Market's family values and open communication between vendors has made for a successful market for over 13 years. In the past their vendors have ranged in age from 16-80. It has always been important to them to instill the values of the Mandan Farmers Market with their future generations. Amongst the vendors they have their children as well as grandchildren helping to make a successful year. Making the market a family friendly place, a 'family' of its own has grown between the vendors, by helping each other when in need. A new tradition was started three years ago with the 'Kids Fun Day' held in the fall. This is a day for children to come and have their face painted, paint pumpkins and have a snack of juice and cookies while learning what the farmers market is all about.

The Mandan Farmers Market has a wide range of locally grown fruits and vegetables from the well-known to rare. Also there is a variety of processed and jarred produce such as pickles, jellies and jams. In addition to the usual farmers market items they have vendors with unique crafts from goats milk lotion and soaps, to hand crafted wood items such as 'Stumpkins' available in the fall.

The Mandan Farmers Market can be found on West Main Street in the parking lot next to the Mandan/Morton County Library. Their season runs from July through October. They encourage you to come and see their family of vendors Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 am to sell out and on Saturdays from 8:00 am to sell out.

Please call the Mandan Farmers Market at 701-663-8622 for more information.

State Wide Look at Farmers Markets

This summer the ND Dept of Agriculture and NDFMGA, with help from volunteers and the NDSU Extension, will be conducting dot surveys at markets around the state. The purpose is to find out more about the economic impact our markets are having on the state and in the communities they serve. We encourage everyone to participate in the survey when you see them at your market and help us find out how we can make the farmers markets better for you and for the state!

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