

ASHE COUNTY FARMERS MARKET TO HOLD 2010 EXPO

On Saturday, March 13, 2010, the Ashe County Farmers Market will hold its annual Expo at the Family Central Community Center from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Vendors wishing to sell at the market during the 2010 season are strongly encouraged to come to the Expo and register. The fee to join the market is \$25.00 for the season and is due upon registration. Additionally, each time a vendor sets up to sell at the Saturday and Wednesday markets, an additional \$5.00 space rental fee will be collected.

Arts and craft items that were **approved (juried) in June or September 2009** are still eligible for sale at the market through March 31, 2011 and **do not need to be re-approved**. All **new crafts** must be submitted for review by the Market's Arts and Craft Jury to determine eligibility. There will be three opportunities this year for vendors to have craft items approved (juried). The jury approval process will take place at the Cooperative Extension Office Government Circle, Jefferson, NC from 9:30 am – 11:00 am in the first floor meeting room.

The jurying dates are as follows:

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Thursday, October 7, 2010

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR'S. There will be no other opportunities beyond these three dates to have new craft items approved (juried) for sale at the Market.

Vendors offering farm raised goods, nursery items and prepared foods are encouraged to register (sign up) for 2010 at the March Expo. **Please bring copies of any updated certification, such as meat handler's certificate, water test inspections, kitchen inspection etc. when you register (sign up)**. If you are not able to attend the March Expo to register, you may register at the Farmers Market with the Market Manager either before the market opens or during the 2010 season. You must be registered to sale at the ACFM.

The annual Farmers Market Expo offers more than just vendor registration. During the Expo, new and returning vendors will have an opportunity to review the market's policies with ACFM Board President Joe Stanley. A Representative from the Farm Bureau will be present to talk to vendors interested in obtaining information about product liability insurance. Also, don't forget about the Annual "Seed Swap". Bring your favorite seeds that you saved from last summer and share them with others.

ACFM Expo Schedule:

8:00 am – 8:30 am – Set Up

8:30 am – 1:00 pm – Vendor Registration

8:30 am – 1:00 pm – Annual "Seed Swap"

9:00 am – 10:00 am – Market Police & Vendor Guidelines – Joe Stanley

10:15 am – 11:15 pm – Vermicomposting Class & Post Harvest Handling Class

11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Apple Tree Grafting Class and Plant Propagation Class

Adjourn for the Day

Opening Day for the Ashe County Farmers' Market is Saturday, April 10, 2010. Hours of operation are Saturdays from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM. For more information please call John Smyre, Market Manager at 336-877-4141 or 910-309-1932.