

https://buffaloreflex.com/news/fair-grove-farmers-market-going-strong-in-its-16th-year/article_85b59db8-457c-11e7-b4b4-9ba03d78ed8a.html

Fair Grove Farmers' Market going strong in its 16th year

May 31, 2017

By Penny Warner

pennyw@buffaloreflex.com

For 16 years the Fair Grove Farmers' Market has been operating as a farm-to-table entity. Located at Highway 125 and Main Street in Fair Grove, on the grounds of the historic Wommack Mill Pavilion in Fair Grove, the market opened early this month and will run until just before the Fair Grove Heritage Reunion begins this fall.

Fair Grove Farmers' Market is grower-owned and all products are 100 percent locally-grown meats and produce. The foods are homemade and craft items are hand-made, with no pre-purchased or factory-produced items allowed. The market serves a humanitarian need as well, providing a bin for donations of fruit and vegetables, destined to become a treat for special area senior citizens.

The market sells fresh vegetables, fruits, local honey, jellies and jams, fresh meats from grain-fed livestock, eggs, baked goods, flowering plants and perennials, as well as many hand-made items such as soaps and lotions.

From April until June, twice a month, local producers can also bring their livestock to the live-animal sale, held in the lot next to the farmer's market.

Market organizers Debi Phillips and Lysa Castillo say market goers will be amazed at the quantity and variety of live animals at the sale. Some of the livestock sold at the market includes naked neck Polish project chicks, Cochin banties, blue mottled/splash mottled orps, lavender orp and Ameraucanas, rumpless Araucana, blue lace red Wyandotte, Rhode Island reds, drizzle cross chicks, golden cuckoo Marans, barred Rocks, and there are also guineas, ducks, baby quail, New Zealand bunnies, lion head rabbits and much more.

There have also been fertilized eggs for those who'd like to try their hand at hatching chicks or ducks. The next live-animal sales are June 7 and 21. All local producers in the 417 area code are welcome to bring their animals, and vendors set their own prices. Sellers should call Lysa at (417) 840-1177 so she can let buyers know in advance (by Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest) what they will be bringing.

Payment for items can be made in cash, debit or credit cards. The Fair Grove Farmers' Market won the Farmers' Market of the Year Award for both 2010 and 2012 and received a USDA Grant in 2015. One of the highlights of the market is the free Kids Korner, where children can come, make fun crafts and take them home. It keeps the kids occupied while mom shops.

Market hours are Wednesdays, rain or shine, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. For buyers, Lisa and Debi say to bring plenty of boxes, especially if you're purchasing live animals. For vendors, the market does charge a setup fee. Call Lysa or Debi at (417) 894-7653 to get started. For a live-animal sales application, or for more information go to fairgrovefarmersmarket.com. You can also find information on the Fair Grove Farmers Market Facebook page.

