

North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association Inc.
105 Simrall Blvd., Molberg Center #22
Bottineau, ND 58318



North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Assn.

Growing North Dakota From Within

www.ndfarmersmarkets.com

Spring Issue 2015

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Local Food Conference in Mandan!

Producers and consumers gathered February 6th and 7th at the Seven Seas in Mandan to meet, greet, share, and get inspired for our upcoming growing season. Keith Knudson’s veggie compass workshop and helpdesk was well attended as participants gathered important information on how to keep track of their produce production and anticipated revenue. Lunch, a welcome, and an NDDA update were followed by keynote speaker, Lynda Annorena. Break-out sessions brought speakers to share their production knowledge and point of sale tips. Producers learned about weed control options, how to investigate new pests and diseases in crops, and ways to utilize farm animals with garden production. Plus they found out the importance in product labeling, and how to combine their efforts to reach a common goal. The evening was topped off with a delicious local food banquet, and the NDFMGA annual meeting.



Marvin Baker addressing the media

Marvin Baker, past association President for 10 years, stepped down and out to let someone else run the helm of the association. Hero Barth, our VP, was elected as President, Cheryl Duvall is now our new VP, and we have two more ladies rounding out the NDFMGA board. Stephanie Blumhagen, Bottineau, owner of Meadowlark Granary, and Janel Anderson, Rolette’s market manager and owner of her business, Rustic Acres. Roberta Thorson, Thorson Produce, was up for re-election, and we gladly welcomed her back to the board for another two year term. Congrats to all of our new appointments and board members! And a special “Thank YOU” to Marv , for all your time and dedication to the NDFMGA! Good luck to you in your future endeavors.

“There is a growing market today for local, organic foods produced by small farmers. And farmers' markets have played a large role in making that happen” Eric Schlosser

Be ready to label your produce.

Call the NDFMGA to get your stickers, shelf talkers and other related marketing materials today!



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Saturday was filled with marketing topics that included cooperative farming entrepreneurship opportunities for our upcoming future farmers, hop growing and beyond, and energy source alternatives for farming while production sessions covered the Farm Breeder Club 2014 and the vegetable variety trial update, how to keep bees in your backyard, and what every beekeeper should know to be productive.

A young gardener panel was presented, and this year we offered a friendly competition contest with vendor and market displays to be voted on by all attendees. The winning vendor was Stephanie Blumhagen, Meadowlark Granary. She won a new Coolpix camera which will come in handy this upcoming season, and our market winner was the McClusky Farmers Market. Their market display won a new tablet computer. Congrats to both our winners! This contest was a great success and will most likely be offered next year with more vendors and market participation. Be ready to market yourself!

Stephanie Blumhagen receiving her camera from our new president, Hero Barth



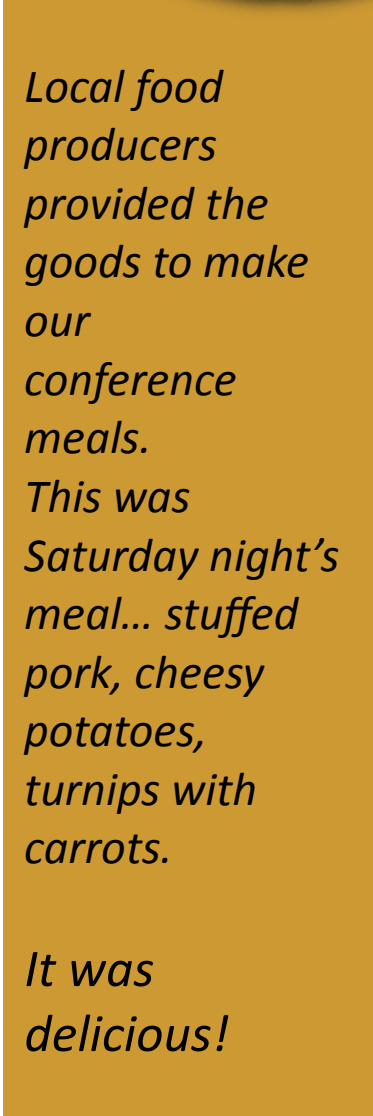
On behalf of McClusky FM, Roberta Hunt is receiving the new computer tablet

Other Market and Vendors Display Entries



Specialty Crop Radio Promotion Questionnaire -
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Funded through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant

What's for Dinner?



Local food producers provided the goods to make our conference meals. This was Saturday night's meal... stuffed pork, cheesy potatoes, turnips with carrots. It was delicious!

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Do you have a Farm Food Safety Plan?

The Entrepreneurial Center for Horticulture will be holding workshops to educate producers on ways to keep their produce safe for their customers. This one day workshop gives participants all information needed to write a food safety plan and implement food safety practices in their operation. Workshops are followed up with a visit to a farm to see just how a food safety inspection might go.

Watch the ECH Facebook page www.facebook.com/ndveggies for more information on dates and locations for workshops.

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Hunger Free Garden Project collects over 1M pounds of produce



Joanna Larson,
ND Ag Commissioner Doug Goehring,
Patti Larson

North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring kicked off the 2015 Local Foods and North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association by presenting a NDDA Community Orchard Grant award to Joanna and Patti Larson for their project, a City of Sheyenne tree board.

Eight projects to create orchards and plant trees in local communities totaled \$30,703.63. "The goals of the North Dakota Community Orchard Project are to increase the production of fruit and nut trees that grow in North Dakota, provide educational opportunities, and foster community spirit by bringing people together to plant and tend these orchards," said Goehring, who announced the grants at the North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association (NDFMGA) Local Foods Conference on Friday. These grant monies will be used for plants, trees, planting supplies, soil modifications, irrigation and fencing supplies. Grant funding is provided by a U.S. Department of Agriculture specialty crop grant filtered through the NDDA Local Food's initiative.

Others were rewarded for their partnership efforts in supporting the Hunger Free Garden Project. Partners in this statewide project include: the Great Plains Food Bank, Lutheran Social Services, North Dakota Master Gardeners, North Dakota State University Extension Service, North Dakota FFA, Entrepreneurial Center for Horticulture at Dakota College at Bottineau, Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society, North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association, Healthy North Dakota and Pride of Dakota. Thank you to all who participate and support this great cause.



Dwight Duke, Dan Folske, ND Ag Commissioner Doug Goehring, Ron Walters-Great Plains Food Bank, Holly Mawby, Karen Ehrens

North Dakota gardeners and growers gave over 125,000 pounds of produce in 2014. This creates over 500,000 donated servings of fruits and vegetables to help enhance the well-being of North Dakota residents.

Source:
www.ndda.org

The Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society (NPSAS) Farm Breeding Club has begun several new breeding projects with garden fruits. Members and other interested souls across the northern plains region will be planting and evaluating the offspring from two tomato crosses in 2015. With very different parents one expects fairly uniform hybrid progeny in the F1 generation, but then incredible diversity in the F2 generation. We will be hunting through this diversity to see if any of the offspring provide us an early, determinate, orange fruited tomato from one of these crosses and an early, determinate, paste fruited tomato from the second cross. Since tomatoes are self pollinating all we have to do is to save seeds from the plant or plants that actually come close to these breeding objectives and in a few years we should have new varieties. Participants are being asked to judge among the plants they are growing and see if they find one for the FBC objectives to share seed back with the club. This will be used for ongoing breeding work in future years. However, with the great diversity they are also encouraged to save seeds for themselves from any plants they like and to eat the harvest otherwise.

We are also evaluating zucchini plants from a multiple parent population. Our objective is an early flowering, vigorous, hardy, dark and tasty fruited, bush plant that is also tolerant of powdery mildew. Many of the plants will fail in this evaluation as well. Participants in this project will plant out excess zucchini seeds, thin out the weak, self pollinate the earliest 50% of the plants to flower, taste some of the other fruits to set, and then save seeds from those self pollinated fruits whose mother plant showed powdery mildew tolerance later in the season and had tasty fruits. This work will not result in a self pollinated line like it will if we are successful with the tomato evaluations, but instead we will eventually intermate the seeds of the very best lines to produce an exceptional open pollinated zucchini variety for our region's gardeners.

For more information about the NPSAS Farm Breeding Club please visit the FBC page on the NPSAS website (<http://npsas.org/about-us/farm-breeding-club.html>) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Farm-Breeding-Club/165221056860513>). If anyone else would like to participate in our tomato or zucchini breeding work this summer, please contact Frank Kutka at fkutka@npsas.org or 701-225-7853. We will accept other serious participants so long as we have enough seeds.

New Vendor Tips to help you succeed at your farmers market sales....

- Keep customers at your table with something eye catching, and asking questions of customers to keep their attention.
- Give great customer service
- Increase dollar per customer purchasing by suggesting additions
- Direct marketing = Repeat Buying
- Merchandise your Table—keep it filled with product
- Remember why people are coming to the market (fresh veggies, positive environment, farm produce) ... use these word types in your advertising and signs. (asapconnections.org/downloads/vendor-tips-for-increasing-sales.pdf)

Save the Date!
Wed. - August 5th!
AND Thursday -



September 17th

The 11th annual farmers market day will be held outside at the Bismarck Capital building on August 5th AND another day on a smaller scale will follow on September 17th.

These market days give great exposure for you, the vendor, to meet, greet, and sell your homegrown or home-made goodies. Over 30 vendors attended last year offering veggie products and honey, milk and meat. Pride Dairy gave away free samples of delicious ice cream, and the Bismarck/Mandan orchestra entertained.

If interested in setting up a booth, please Contact Jamie Good, NDDA, 701-328-2659.

Suggestions? Send them to: NDFMGA, 105 Simrall Blvd. Molberg 22, Bottineau ND 58318