

Market Line



An occasional newsletter of the

15 March 2008

CORVALLIS - ALBANY FARMERS' MARKETS

Another Texas trip

Rebecca will make another family trip to Texas during the application period. So please don't panic if you don't get a quick answer to calls and emails. She'll be back in time for the meeting.

Stall fees will rise

Yes, there is a fee increase. The board chose a \$2 increase for Corvallis Saturday and a \$1 increase for the other two sites, with the intent that next year all three sites would be charged the higher level. The system of two difference levels for Albany's different depths is retained. So now there are \$18, \$17 and \$15 stalls depending on location and size.

All of the discounts as revised last year remain in place. We still need you to help more with keeping track of exactly what you are paying for and when your paid weeks expire. If we have to put lots of administrative time into it, there are no real savings to share.

This is not the first time that we have phased in a fee increase at various sites. We did that in 2003-04 with the "big" increase from \$10 to \$12 and \$15. Fees have been at \$16 for the last two years. The board determined we have absorbed all the external price increases we can without raising fees. A side benefit of the phase-in is encouraging new vendors to consider Albany first.

Guidelines and Application

There are only a few changes, but they are important ones. We've made it clearer that the market management has authority to prevent a vendor from attending or to exclude certain products if there is a question about a breach of guidelines. The language about required cooperation with farm visits has been strengthened.

Growers of tree fruits and other perennial foods are now required to provide more information about their producing trees, bushes, vines, etc. Please don't ignore this, because you may be prohibited from bringing items if you don't supply the required information.

The new questions have been worked into the main application. It's arranged so you could answer in acres or the number of individual trees, bushes, vines, etc. You have

CAFM SPRING MEETING NOTICE

Friday

March 28, 2008, 6 PM

**SITE: Zia Southwest Cuisine
121 SW 3rd St.**

Applications processed for the first 30 minutes or so before we start talking.
No elections -- done in the fall.

- WIC/SR. (FDNP)
- FOOD STAMPS/DEBIT
- GUIDELINES
- SPECIAL EVENTS

Rebecca Landis, market director
Corvallis-Albany Farmers' Markets,
752-1510 or landisr@peak.org.

to provide this information in some form if you want to sell these items at markets.

The application itself has changed to accommodate those who prefer to do things on the computer. (And some of you have handwriting that is almost as bad as Rebecca's.) For the most part it is now a "fillable" form. But it still works fine with a pen. There are a few things you still have to do with a pen -- like noting what months each product will appear. For those of you who lived through our earlier experiments with the restaurant and processed form, this one is working better thanks to the problems you helped discover.

WIC and Senior update

Vendors who wish to participate in the WIC and Senior programs should return their state applications by March 31 if you want to be on the lists received by coupon holders. DO NOT SEND THEM TO CAFM, and don't wait until fall or you could be out of luck.

Benton County Fairgrounds

In all likelihood, 2008 will be the last year for the Wednesday farmers' market to stay at the Benton County Fairgrounds. It has been there since 1988, following seven somewhat nomadic seasons.

There are many reasons why this site is no longer serving our needs as it once did. Today most households need two wage earners to make expenses, so it is difficult to support a morning market that is considered remote from workplaces, schools and other shopping. Other factors include the 2005 road construction, the 2006 maintenance building, and the 2007 RV space expansion. Earlier this year we learned that the pattern may continue as the Fair Board is considering a microwave tower for public

safety communications that would be constructed right next to the market. That would be this year if it is approved. It has to get a conditional use permit from the county as well.

Even before the microwave tower arose, a CAFM board committee began examining dozens of sites, mostly church parking lots and public property. Many of the preferred sites are downtown, but those options may take more time to resolve. There has not yet been a formal board vote on any particular sites, but the staff and board are working under the assumption that we will move in 2009.

A fairly uncomplicated move might be a combination of Starker and Sunset parks at 45th and Country Club, where we would be neighbors with the Youth Garden Project and the Community Garden and surrounded by housing with a good mix of income levels. It has restrooms, water but probably no electricity. There is playground equipment, a duck pond and a wetlands trail. Somewhat nearby are businesses on Philomath Blvd. The nearest schools are Ashbrook Independent and Adams Elementary.

We are still looking at a pair of church parking lots near Kings and Circle, but we have not reached the right contact person yet at the 2nd church needed for customer parking.

Different hours might be considered depending on what site is selected. The park site, for example, is only suitable for morning hours because of wind conditions and the presence of a softball diamond.

Corvallis Artisans Market

Sheri Dover of Corvallis is planning to open the Corvallis Artisans Market, which will offer juried arts and crafts, on private property at 1st and Monroe on April 19, our opening day as well. This is

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the gravel lot just south of the farmers' market section where our restaurants operate. (Hugh White, the owner of this lot, has said he wants to build a boutique and/or chain hotel on the space, but the process for something like that is certain to take more than this season to accomplish.)

Other events on April 19 in Corvallis are the Earth Faire and the Procession of the Species Parade. (See the item on the advent of a Procession of the Species in Albany on the following week.) The artisans market originally projected hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. but is considering changing to a 2 p.m. end time.

For the first week at least, plan to exit to the north. We will be in regular contact to work through traffic issues, which will be most apparent during set up. Many of our vendors have used the gravel lot for unloading. That may still be possible, but not in the same way as in prior years.

Sheri, who has created the market as an LLC, plans to establish something like our Community Table to accommodate vendors who cannot set up their own stall. If you are interested, please contact her at 752-ARTS or dovers@corvallisartisansmarket.com. And feel free to share this with any friends who have been nagging you about allowing crafts in the farmers' market.

Albany's Procession of the Species

Albany's newest parade has arranged its route to end on the courthouse steps specifically to collaborate with the market. Even if you are not a regular Albany vendor, please consider sending someone to Albany on April 26 so we can make a good impression on the crowd of families with young children.

Parade organizer Tiah Swanson has kept us in the loop from the get-go. The group has recruited many school and church groups to participate. "If you have booths that sell sausages, fresh home made soups, pretzels, drinks, etc. this would be a good weekend to set up shop. Also, if you have any interested folks from Corvallis that would be interested in being a part of Albany's Saturday Market Procession weekend, we'd love to have them. This is a great opportunity to dress up like your favorite veggie, flower, fungus or critter and be a part of our fun celebration."

Costumed participants will assemble at 10 a.m. at Broadalbin Street and Water Avenue for an 11

continued

a.m. start. The procession will serpentine back and forth on First, Second, Third and Fourth avenues between Broadalbin and Washington.

For local trivia buffs: The Procession of the Species parade concept started in Olympia, Wash., in 1995. So Albany is not copying Corvallis, which was not the first town in Oregon to hold one. Portland, Bend and Eugene were earlier.

Find a Farmer listings

Vendors on the email list already received this message from Chris Peterson with the Ten Rivers Food Web, a local group that for the last few years has been helping our farmers' markets and everyone else involved with local food. Ten Rivers has made a serious commitment of time and energy to create a useful farmer list on the web. All it needs now is you. Read on! Here's Chris' message:

The local foods movement is in full swing. People are eager to buy more of their food from local growers. One major obstacle is finding them. Ten Rivers Food Web can help. We invite you to list your farm, business and foods in our on-line Local Foods Directory.

It's the only such directory in Benton, Linn and Lincoln counties but we want it to be more than that. We want it to be THE source people turn to discover the amazing array of foods available locally, many year-round.

Ten Rivers Food Web is a non-profit (501(c)3) organization, so your listing is free and the directory is free to the consumer - as well as available at every hour, every day.

Listing in the directory is simple: Go to www.tenriversfoodweb.org. Click on Farms Sign-up (on the left side of the screen) Fill in the information - and you're done! Shortly thereafter, you will receive a password which will allow you (and ONLY you) to edit your information whenever you wish.

Please be specific about your products. For example, rather than say, "a variety of fruits and vegetables," list each one. Why? Because consumers can enter the name of the exact food (e.g. blueberries, beef, summer squash, tuna) they are looking for. If you've listed it in your information, it will come up on the screen - and they will see where to get it or how to contact you. Try it yourself on our website. We hope this Directory will be equally useful to you in finding the foods you don't produce yourself.

Questions? Contact us here at info@tenriversfoodweb.org at any

time. We're here to help - and to get local food on local plates. Thank you for producing food for our community!

Food Stamps to expand

We are hoping to expand the program to include the Corvallis Saturday site. We are seeking two Students in Service Americorps interns to run the program at markets and improve our outreach activities. CAFM continues to get a lot of help from a host of people outside our association who want to make the markets accessible to all.

Rays Food Place may want you!

Times are changing. A grocery store called US to ask for contacts of local growers! We told them about the Find a Farmer web page and offered to let you know where to call. Assistant Produce manager Jim Daniels and Produce Manager Dan Polanski are both at the North Albany store, 541-791-1713. You will need to fill out a form to get set up as a new vendor, but once approved you can deal directly with the local store. It's always good to prepare and offer an availability list.

Vendor's shop building, contents up in smoke

Jo Latella of Ramblin' Rose Bakery and the Community Table has lost most of her gardening equipment and much more in a March 11 fire that made the front page two days in a row. The shop building, a large 1950s wood structure, also housed some of the infrastructure used for the Community Table. (In the second day story, Jo's piglets were charged with knocking the heat lamp into the straw and leaving the scene so as not to become bacon prematurely.)

Jo is busy wrangling with her insurance company, but she says some of the losses may not be covered. The insurer is claiming the garden tools are business items, even though they are also used to feed her family. If you have garden hand tools or hoses to spare or would like to contribute to the rototiller replacement fund, please call Jo at 758-0243. She also needs long 2x4s to rebuild wooden racks.

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Town Hall meeting

If you would like to pre-register for this event on March 31, go to the Coalition's web page, www.sustainablecorvallis.org, and click on the pre-registration link.