

Hunterdon CADB Creates Local Farm Market Database

Hunterdon County is fortunate to produce a broad and diverse variety of agricultural products. Consequently, the County also has broad and diverse mechanisms to distribute these products from the farm based honor box at the end of the driveway where you can buy eggs or honey to the "Pick Your Own Farms" to the more publicized local, regional and commercial farm markets like the Dvoor Farm and Melick's Town Farm. With the increased cost of food transportation; food safety issues and a movement toward healthier diets, many Hunterdon County residents have added "Organic", "Food Miles" and "Sustainable Agriculture" terms to their vernacular, and are looking for more opportunities to buy their food locally.

Part of the Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board's (CADB) mission is to promote agricultural viability. The CADB recognizes that the most basic, direct and sustainable market strategy is to connect Hunterdon County consumers with Hunterdon County farmers. Currently, the primary connection mechanism is through word of mouth, especially with the smaller farm stands and honor box farms. While there are several lists of Hunterdon County farm stands and farm markets to be found, there is no single source searchable by type, location, or production method (traditional or organic).

The CADB, through the Hunterdon County Planning Board, is hosting Kelly Thomas, a sophomore from American University, as a summer intern. Kelly hails from Flemington and her family has deep roots in the County. Part of Kelly's work plan will be to research, catalog and create a database, web link, and county-wide map of as many honor box farms, farm stands, regional and commercial farm markets as possible.

Kelly will be working with Municipal farmland liaisons, state and county agencies and Hunterdon farmers to build this database. Users of the web link will be able to pick a product or township to search for farm stands and markets. The database will include market times, days, location, products available and local contact information for specific questions. Our goal is to go live with the web link by the middle of July 2009.

Local buying stimulates the Hunterdon County economy; we believe this project will be a valuable tool for both Hunterdon County consumers and farmers and, in addition will increase community relations between farms and residents. We need your help to capture the information. If you have an agricultural product or business you would like us to include, please contact Kelly at:

(908) 788-1490 or via Email at: at kthomas@co.hunterdon.nj.us