



Hunterdon Land Trust

Protecting the places you love

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Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers' Market Begins Ninth Season

RARITAN TWP – The Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers' Market opens its ninth season with a new Market Manager who's a familiar face to shoppers. In fact, his face is usually the first one customers see.

"People will recognize me and say, 'Oh yea, you're the guy who directs traffic'," said Robert Reid, who has volunteered at the Farmers' Market since it first opened in 2007.

"I rarely miss a Sunday," said Reid, who is a former HLT Board of Trustees member and a current member of the Dvoor Farm Committee. "The market is pretty special. It's such a unique situation for a land preservation organization – an entity that preserves farm land – to sponsor a Farmers' Market. HLT can help farmers find a farm, and after the farmers grow the produce, we can help them make a living. I don't know anywhere else in this area where there's such an obvious link."

The market begins its ninth season Sunday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dvoor Farm, 111 Mine St. off the route 12 circle in Raritan Township. Every Sunday through Nov. 22 shoppers can find a bounty of locally grown, organic vegetables, grass-fed beef, artisan breads, cheeses, honey, pies, plants and much more. The market also frequently features live music and family-friendly events.

"With the delicious local food and the festive atmosphere fueled by the live music and weekly special events, our Farmers' Market supports the agricultural legacy of our county and the Dvoor Farm, while serving as a gathering place where new and old friends meet," said Patricia Ruby, Executive Director of the Hunterdon Land Trust.

Farmers' Market sponsors this year are Basil Bandwagon Natural Market, Matt's Red Rooster Grill, Tom McMillan with Weidel Realtors, Provident Bank, Amy Green Environmental Consultants, NJ Environmental News and ShopRite of Flemington.

During the year, shoppers will find these local farmers and vendors at the HLT market:

- Apple Ridge Farm – artisan breads and hearty pastries.
- Blue Mist Hollow Farm – perennial and annual plants.
- Bobolink Dairy and Bakehouse -- breads, a variety of cheeses – including cave-ripened cheddar, boudolino and drum – and pasta made with emmer wheat.
- Comeback Farm – organic vegetables.
- Fired Up Flatbread Co. food truck – pizza, pastries and The Coffee Scoop's fresh-brewed coffee.
- Fulper Farms – cheese and yogurt.
- Griggstown Farm – eggs, poultry and poultry products.
- Headquarters Farm – lamb and lamb products.
- Hollandview Farm – microgreens and wheatgrass.
- Locktown Farm -- sour pickles, dill pickles, dilly beans, pickled jalapenos and salsa.
- Milford Farms – eggs, beef and pork.
- Phillips Farms -- a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, fruit spreads and preserves, flowers, apple cider and more.
- Purely Farm – eggs, pastured pork and turkey.
- Rolling Hills Farm – oyster mushroom kits, organic oyster mushrooms and microgreens.
- Sandbrook Meadow Farm – organic vegetables.
- Sweet Valley Farm (Starting in June) – seasonal fruits and vegetables including corn, eggplants and tomatoes.
- Toadshade Wildflower Farm – native plant seeds, teas and nuts.
- WoodsEdge Wools Farm – llama and alpaca products, honey.

The Farmers' Market also provides a boost to the local economy, according to a survey conducted by the nonprofit group Market Umbrella. In 2014, the market had a combined economic impact of \$2.7 million on its vendors, host neighborhood and surrounding region.

Most farmers accept credit cards and several other honor WIC and the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Parking is free and easily accessible.

Image: Robert Reid at the Hunterdon Land Trust Dvoor Farm headquarters.

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