

## **Huge turnout for Farmers Market**

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Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year and with the pandemic fears rapidly fading, the Lucedale Farmers Market is having one of its strongest years ever.

Each week about 30 local growers and vendors show up to display their produce in front of the George County Courthouse, according to market manager Annis Dailey, with several hundred people coming to shop.

“We have shoppers showing up at 6:30 a.m.,” she said, “and by 10 a.m. the street is filled with people. They come to buy.”

The market offerings, of course, follow the season, and early season produce such as greens and strawberries are done. “There are still plenty of new potatoes showing up along with yellow and zucchini squash. There are lots of snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, blueberries, and blackberries,” she said.

Along with the wide variety of fresh, homegrown, garden fresh produce, there is also an excellent selection of homemade jams, jellies, pickles, sauces, salsa, and other canned delicacies.

A popular adjunct to the fruits and vegetables is the nursery plants.

“We have about four or five of the local nurseries setting up displays,” Dailey said. “They have beautiful landscaping plants and flowers for sale.”

Just added this past week is an “Art Walk,” an area for local artists to display their work, make sales and take orders.

“We had seven artists this past week,” Dailey said, “and two more are interested in coming this coming week. We had some really beautiful paintings, sketches, and pottery. I think the Art Walk is going to be a great addition. The artists will be set up around the corner on Manila Street to keep them separate from the produce vendors.”

Artists, like the farmers, may set up their displays or booths at no charge.

The Farmers Market runs every Saturday morning from sun-up to sell-out (about 11:30a.m.) in the spring and fall.