

Farmers Market still growing strong

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When Mike Foster started the Farmers Market in DeKalb County he wanted to bring produce and business into the area. Years later it's still doing that and that business was very visible this past Saturday.

Customer Tricia Young says. "I brought squash, okra, peaches and I am satisfied. I usually don't shop at the Farmers Market, but the prices were reasonable and the farmers knew when the veggies were picked. You cannot get that at a grocery store."

Customer satisfaction is what keeps this business going. That's why vendors want to make sure there's a good selection to choose from. Some other items that were available Saturday are watermelon, purple hull peas, and green beans. There were also baked goods, plants and BBQ.

This produce stand is also educational. Children are welcomed to come talk to vendors and learn about



Duane Sherrill photos

The Farmers Market is a popular destination for locally sourced foods. The market is open on Saturdays and is located next to the county complex in Smithville.

growing crops. President of the Farmers Market, Eddie Ray says "I have been doing this for 15 years and I encourage young people

to come out and learn about farming. There may come a time when they need those skills to survive."

All of the vendors harvest 10% of their crops. The Farmers Market goes from the last of April to the first of October.



Roy Merriman pulls out a Boston Butt for a customer at the Farmers Market. He offers a wide assortment of meats at his stand.



Eddie and Tabitha Ray were among the originals at the Farmers Market, moving their stand from its former downtown location to the present site of the market next to the county complex. They offer a wide variety of goods, mostly sourced in their own garden.



Elaine Bates is one of the newer members of the Farmers Market, operating a booth there for about three months selling a variety of home grown vegetables.

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