

Farm to Table

Dinner showcases local chefs, produce

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Healthy meals start with fresh foods filled with nutrition and flavor. That's the idea behind the Farm to Table Dinner presented by Main Street McMinnville and Warren County Farmers Market. The event was attended by 126 patrons, and was held outdoors at the Farmers Market pavilion. Guests enjoyed healthy appetizers, salad, entrée and dessert.

"Our goal is to showcase our local chefs and produce from the market," said Farmers Market manager Ann Brown. "This is a community endeavor highlighting our restaurants and our farmers and their products."

The nutritious meal started with basil cucumber canapes for an appetizer, fol-

lowed by an heirloom tomato salad before the entrée of hickory smoked prime rib and grilled chicken peche. Rosemary rolls and assorted beverages were enjoyed before fresh fruit trifle for dessert.

"We want to highlight the freshness of quality produce, our grass fed beef and hormone-free chicken," said Brown. "Consumers today are more concerned about where and how their food is produced."

Different aspects of the evening were sponsored by area businesses and farms, making it a night to remember. Local entertainer Tanner Hillis provided musical selections, and the creative farm focused décor was beautifully presented, transforming the market into an open-air café.

"This event is a group effort from

many businesses, with all of our tables sponsored," said Brown. "We certainly couldn't do this without assistance from others, for instance, our talented chefs donate their time and labor."

Servers for the memorable evening were Warren County 4-H and Warren County FFA students. Karley Warner, 4-H member, participated for the first time, and thought it was a very rewarding experience.

"I'm happy to be able to help out and to further develop my leadership skills," said Warner. "It was a fun experience."

The Farm to Table committee chose to award Lighthouse Ministries at last year's event, with Families in Crisis the chosen recipient charity this year.

"We like to give back to the community when we can, and this is a good way to do that," said Brown.



Lacy Garrison photos

Server Karley Warner, 17, a Warren County 4-H Club member, volunteered her services for the evening, and was rewarded with being able to serve fresh boiled corn on the cob.



According to Main Street McMinnville executive director Katie Kemesis, 126 guests showed up for the Farm to Table Dinner on Saturday evening.



Even though Saturday evening was hot and humid, Olivia and Travis Young were a stylish couple at the Farm to Table Dinner. Travis looked dapper with his black bow tie, complementing his wife's dress.



The entertainment for Farm to Table was provided by local artist Tanner Hillis, who whistled a tune while everyone mingled.



YakiWiz owner Jeff Danberg prepared Japanese des legumes which consisted of pureed sweet potatoes, green beans and Japanese eggplant served on a narrow black tray.