

Farmers Market on Green River

Photos by Dale Curry



Patsy Bishop helps a customer with her purchases and the free items that are available at her booth. Bishop said, "This was the biggest, best first market we have ever had. It was such a good day for everyone. The vendors felt so encouraged by the support of so many customers. The season is off to a great start."



Jacky Pierce talks with a customer at his table which contained a lot of vegetable plants.



Goat milk soap and tallow were available for purchase at last week's Farmers Market.



Lots of improvements have been made to the Cattleman's Pavilion where the Farmers Market takes place each Thursday afternoon. A concrete floor has been added. One corner of the building has been enclosed and more floor space has been added to the facility.



EKM Farms sold a variety of lamb meat, fresh eggs along with cookies and bread at this first market of the year last week.



A variety of fresh baked breads, homemade croutons, and fruit pies were available at this booth during the Farmers Market on Thursday.



Nathan Davis had a nice selection of vegetable and flowering plants for sale at Thursday's Farmers Market underneath the Cattleman's Pavilion on Campbellsville Road.# 1222

Prevent vegetable diseases with garden planning tips

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Warmer temperatures mean gardeners everywhere are ready to get plants in the ground. However, prior to planting, growers should develop a plan for this year's vegetable garden. A thoughtful approach to garden layout and preparation can influence disease pressure as well as the overall success of the crop. Here are few areas to consider to get ahead of diseases as you make your vegetable garden plans. **Planting Site** The best vegetable garden sites are sunny

with adequate moisture and fertile, well-drained soil. Avoid low spots, which can worsen soilborne diseases, and shady locations, which can worsen foliar diseases. Prior to planting, it is advisable to draw a planting map. This allows consideration into site limitations and succession planting. Scale models of the garden space can be drawn on graph paper, made in Microsoft Excel or designed using one of many available apps. Choose perennial locations carefully to make tilling more convenient. Taller crops, such as sweet corn or tomatoes, should be planted on the north or west side of the garden to avoid shading shorter plants. Retain these maps from year to year,



and refer to them when planning next season. **Crop Rotation** If the same garden site is used each year, avoid planting the same or closely related crops in the same place. A three-year rotation is recommended; however, even a year or two out of a certain plant family can be beneficial. Crop rotation prevents disease-causing patho-

gens from building up in soil. Multiple vegetable crops are closely related and prone to many of the same diseases. Closely related crops are listed together: Tomatoes, Peppers, Potatoes and Eggplant Cucumbers, Pumpkins, Squash, Watermelons and Muskmelons Peas, Broad Beans, Snap beans

and Lima Beans Cabbage, Cauliflower, Kale, Collards, Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli, Kohlrabi, Turnips, Rutabaga, Chinese Cabbage and Mustard Lettuce, Endive and Salsify Chives, Garlic, Leeks, Onions and Shallots Beets, Swiss Chard and Spinach Carrots, Parsley, Celery, Celeryriac and Parsnip Compost Piles Avoid composting diseased plants or produce, since home compost piles typically do not reach temperatures high enough to kill pathogens. Accelerate the rate of decomposition by turning compost piles at least once per month. Avoid adding fresh material to

finished compost piles, as the new material will not break down in time for spring planting. Water should be added to very dry compost piles at turning to allow for more complete decomposition. **Keep Records** Whether using an app or a physical garden journal, keep track of disease and pest issues as they occur to help develop strategies to prevent or manage them. Also include details about cultivars and their performance, as well as weather patterns. Sources: Kim Leonberger, plant pathology Extension associate, and Nicole Gauthier, plant pathology Extension specialist for vegetables.