

## Farmers Market Stronger than ever

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Release Date: May 20, 2021



*Photo by Ken Flanagan*

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Snap beans, yellow squash, cucumbers, onions, new potatoes, bacon, summer sausage, fresh baked goods, jams, jellies, and salsa are just some of the items at last week's Farmers Market.

"We will still have plenty of snap beans," said Burnie Howell, both flat and the round. We also will have new potatoes for the next two or three weeks."

Howell said the Farmers Market is as strong as it has ever been with a good selection of vendors and large crowds of shoppers.

Usually, I get to walk down through the market some time during the morning," he said, "but we were so busy last week that I didn't get away from my truck."

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Lucedale – George County Farmers Market which typically see 15 to 20 local farmers set up in front of the George County Courthouse. Crowds of 200 - 300 shoppers are treated to fresh, locally grown produce.

Other offerings include bedding plants, shrubs and hanging baskets from area nurseries, fresh-ground corn meal and grits.

Howell said one of the farmers thought he would have some sweet corn ready for this coming week. Certainly, some sweet corn will be available within the next couple of weeks and both green and ripe tomatoes in about three weeks.

This year's cool, rainy spring has gotten the market off to a somewhat slower start but produce is quickly catching up now.

The Farmers Market is held each Saturday morning from sunup until sellout, usually about 11 a.m. and will end in early July with the annual Watermelon Games celebration. Another market will be held on Saturday mornings in October and November.

Local farmers are welcome to bring produce to sell with no booth fees. Shoppers are assured of getting the freshest, best tasting produce possible, just like Grandma used to have.