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## Wacky Watermelon Games return to Lucedale Farmers Market this Saturday

Release Date: July 07, 2015

Come celebrate the summer's greatest fruit, the watermelon, this Saturday (July 11) at the Lucedale Farmers Market. The County and City are teaming up again to host the Wacky Watermelon Games on the front lawn of the George County Courthouse.

The Farmers Market opens at 6 a.m., with the Watermelon Games starting at 9 a.m. and are free to all participants. Games include a Watermelon Roll (3-5 yrs), Wacky Relay (6-10 yrs), Super Wacky Watermelon Obstacle Course (11- Up), and the Watermelon Eating Contest. Last year more than three dozen watermelon warriors took part in the Watermelon Games.

“The highlight of the games each year is the watermelon eating contest,” Ken Flanagan, George County Community Development Director said. “Each person has 90 seconds to eat as much watermelon as possible without using their hands. It’s just good clean messy fun.”

There will also be free slices of watermelon for kids and adults provided by local watermelon growers. Several bounce/jump inflatable houses are being added to the fun this year and are free for all children before and after the watermelon games.

“Watermelon Fun Day is becoming a tradition at the Lucedale Farmers Market. It’s a great way to wrap up and end our Farmers Market for the summer season,” Lucedale Mayor Doug Lee explained. “The City is proud again to work with the Board of Supervisors for this event. And we could not make it happen without the watermelons donated by our local farmers.”

The Farmers Market began its Spring/Summer season in mid-April with nursery plants and strawberries. As the season bloomed, regulars to the market have watched the produce change to tomatoes, sweet corn, and now watermelons.



The market is easy to find for visitors, it’s in Downtown Lucedale on Cox Street on the Courthouse Square.

“The market goes from sun-up to sell-out, but I tell everyone, get there early to get the good stuff,” said Mayor Lee. “When you buy at the Farmers Market, you get the freshest produce and directly support our local farmers. Remember our phrase ‘Buy Local, Buy George.’”

**Photos by Linda Fallon:**

- More than 20 kids dove face first, no hands, into the watermelon eating contest.
- Eliza Schultz gets low to push her melon through the course during the watermelon roll event.

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