

HERE A MARKET, THERE A MARKET

Meet your farmer at Eugene venues BY SHANNON FINNELL

Weekly crowds at Saturday's Lane County Farmers Market are a testament to how beloved an institution the market is — open each week with Saturday Market at the park blocks — and how much Eugeneans love their farmers. But if the crowds are too overwhelming, you don't have to miss out on meeting your farmer. (Rumors about closing 8th Avenue on Saturdays, using the neighboring parking lot and other market expansions circulate often, and we sure hope one of them comes true!)

First, it's worth mentioning that the Lane County Farmers Market is also open 10 am to 3 pm Tuesdays at the park blocks and 2 pm to 6 pm every Thursday at Amazon Community Center.

Weekdays not your bag? No worries, your options remain stellar.

Hideaway Farmers Market, open 9 am to 2 pm every Saturday between Hideaway Bakery and Mazzi's Restaurant, remains open year-round, which market member Erin Reid of Raven Feathers Farm says is unique in Eugene. The market was formed by a small group of Lane County Farmers Market regulars. "About five years ago it started to get extremely expensive to be there for a small farmer," Reid says, "and we wanted more time to interact with our customers."

Now the bustling Hideaway Farmers Market offers the staples: organic fruits and vegetables, local, organic meat of all sorts, plus rarer foods like duck and turkey eggs and



WHITEAKER FARMERS MARKET

PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

heritage goat products. There's even specialty vegetables like hard-to-find varieties of turnips, radishes and rootstalks.

Reid says an important feature of Hideaway Farmers Market is its decision to be dog-friendly — dogs get a free duck egg, which she says is great for their coats.

Parking is available on the other side of the bakery parking lot, and patrons can also use the dog wash parking lot.

Sarah Hucka of Circle H Farm is also co-organizer of the new farmers market in the Whiteaker neighborhood, located in New Day Bakery's courtyard. Open 11 am to 3 pm every Sunday, the market is up and running with local produce,

plant starts, meat, cheese, fish and baked goods. "People comment on the great, relaxed atmosphere," Hucka says, which is in tune with the neighborhood philosophy.

Want to venture outside Eugene? Springfield Farmers Market, open 3 pm to 7 pm every Friday at 5th and A streets, gets better every year as NEDCO works to incorporate more local produce plus food vendors and other entertainment — even art projects! It also accepts Oregon Trail (SNAP), WIC and Senior coupons.

Creswell Farmers Market is open 4 pm to 6 pm Tuesdays, year round, at 182 S. 2nd St., and it features vegetables, grass-fed beef and pork, free-range chicken and eggs, pastured lamb, grains in states from whole to flours, preserved foods such as fruit spreads, sauces and fermented foods, according to Market Manager Elyse Grau. On other occasions, visitors might find home-grown sweet potatoes, baby ginger or exotically-named Asian greens.

Also on Sundays, Dexter Lake Farmers Market is open noon to 3 pm, right on Dexter Lake. See www.dexterlakefarmersmarket.org for more info.

The Spencer Creek Community Growers' Market (Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm) has produce, crafts, and locally grown lunch, including a locally grown falafel wrap.

What other local farmers markets do we need to know about? Let us know on the web. ■

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