

A bounty of farmers markets in Northeast Oregon

Find fresh produce, handcrafted items, local meat and more at these markets

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

Farmers Markets are opening for the season around Northeast Oregon. Here are the details for where to find fresh produce, unique products, and local goods.

La Grande

The La Grande Farmers Market opened May 15 at Max Square in downtown La Grande.

Market days are Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

This market continues through October. Information about the market, and a calendar of special events, can be found at www.lagrundefarmersmarket.org.

Joseph

The Wallowa County Farmers Market begins Saturday, May 29. It runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Main Street in Joseph, next to Stein's Distillery. The market is held every Saturday through Oct. 9.

This season will see more vendors than in 2020, and the return of live music.

"Many past vendors, who took a hiatus last year, are returning, and we'll have some brand new vendors this year, so the market should be quite abundant," said Annie Robinson, Wallowa County Farmers Market board member and vendor.

She said local farmers have been hard at work growing produce, and flower and vegetable starts, so shoppers can expect a bounty of fresh farm goods.

Several fundraising events to benefit the market are planned this summer, such as a strawberry shortcake sale and a pie sale. New for the market this year will be its presence at the Wallowa County



Photo courtesy of La Grande Farmers Market

Farmers markets are opening across Northeast Oregon with early-season vegetables and more.

Fair on Aug. 12.

The market accepts SNAP, WIC, Veggie Rx and Senior Farm Direct Vouchers. Robinson said anyone who has extra produce, plant

starts, or flowers can sell them at the market's Co-Op booth. This process gives the vendor a chance to share their bounty with the community, while making a sale. The

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market takes a small portion of the sellers' total sales, waived if they volunteer at the Co-Op booth.

The market is following all state and local guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with best practices from the Oregon Farmers Market Association (OFMA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Masks and social distancing may be required of participants.

For more information on the market, or to sign up as a vendor, go to www.wallowacountyfarmersmarket.com, or call 541-838-0795. The Wallowa County Farmers Market is also on Facebook.

Baker City

The Baker City Farmers Market will open this season on Wednesday, June 2, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The location is Court Plaza on Court Avenue between Main and Resort streets.

MarkliAnn Johnston, co-president of the Baker City Farmers Market board, said this year has already seen increased vendor interest.

"We had more vendors show

up for our pre-season meeting than I've seen since I've been on the board for the last four years," Johnston said.

She said fruit vendors will be back this summer. In 2020, a late freeze killed the summer crop.

Although last season saw its challenges, Johnston said sales were actually up and the market was mostly supported by local shoppers.

"We have a very loyal following of locals," she said.

This year's market will be managed by Levi McCutchen. As for health guidelines, such as mask requirements, the market board is consulting state recommendations.

For the most recent updates, visit the www.bakercityfarmersmarket.com. Updates are also posted on Facebook.

Halfway

June will bring the Farmers Market back to Halfway on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon next to Halfway Whimsical, across the street from US Bank.

The first market is Saturday, June 5. For updates, check Halfway Farmers Market on Facebook.

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