

Article for The Bristol Herald Courier Agriculture Page
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“Farmers Markets Offer Wonderful Possibilities”

Whether you are someone looking for something delicious and healthy to eat or someone looking to make some income from your land, local farmers markets are a great opportunity. The Tri-cities area is blessed with several excellent farmers markets. You can find everything from fresh produce to farm-fresh eggs; from local honey to pasture-fresh meats; from fresh, local fruits to baked goods. Local farmers markets are a virtual cornucopia of locally produced foods, and if you missed the gist of the last sentence, because it is locally grown, it is brought to the market “fresh”. Let’s take a brief look at several local farmers markets.

Bristol State Street Market. Located right on State Street in downtown Bristol, the State Street Market is open to customers on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. from April through December. Contact Linda Dannelly at 423-764-1879.

Kingsport Farmers Market. Open Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 7:00 a.m. until sell-out, the Kingsport Farmers Market is a local favorite. Starting in early May, the Kingsport Market is located behind the Kingsport Public Library. Contact Ken Edwards at 423-753-3153.

Abingdon Farmers Market. The Abingdon Market is open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 7:00 a.m. until noon. Located at Latture Field on West Main Street, the Abingdon Farmers Market is open from April through November. Contact Appalachian Sustainable Development at 276-623-1121.

Tazewell (Virginia) Farmers Market. The Tazewell Market can be found in the Farm Bureau parking in Tazewell, Virginia every Saturday morning (8:00 – noon) from the first of June through October. Contact Rebecca Hubbard at 276-472-2511.

Johnson City Farmers Market. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays starting in May – contact Ken Edwards at 423-753-3153.

Big Stone Gap Farmers Market. Open Friday evenings starting in June. Contact Kirsty Zahnke – 276-523-0610.

Jonesboro Farmers Market. Open Friday evenings starting in May -- contact Ken Edwards at 423-753-3153.

Greenville Farmers Market. Open on Saturday mornings from May through October – contact Rural Resources at 423-636-8171.

Even now, in early spring, there are delicious, fresh delights to be found at your local farmers market. With each week, the variety grows – very soon, those first local strawberries will start to come ripe – you’ll find them first (and freshest!) at your local farmers market. Make a point to visit a farmers market near you this week – you won’t be disappointed.