

Delaware farm stands, markets opening for season

DOVER – With farm stands opening their doors and farmers' market seasons kicking off this month, it's now easier than ever for Delawareans to buy their farm-fresh items directly from growers.

"Delaware is looking forward to another great growing season," said Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee. "Whether you buy local from a farmers' market vendor or a roadside stand, you can get the best and freshest produce right here in Delaware."

Shoppers can easily and quickly find local sources of fresh produce, meat, eggs and other agricultural products by using several new resources:

>> The new Buy Local Guide, at de.gov/buylocal, featuring lists of farmers' markets, farm stands, creameries, equine operations and more.

>> The revamped Delaware Fresh app for mobile devices, now offering a search function to help users find products faster.

>> A new edition of the printed Delaware Ag Directory, available at locations around the state.

"Finding a farm selling your favorite foods is as easy as clicking, swiping or turning a page," Kee said. "Getting to know your local farmers also helps create connections between neighbors, and fosters more awareness of agriculture's important role in Delaware's economy."

The farmers' market season this year features 27 community-run markets, with the Milton Farmers' Market opening the season on Friday, April 18. The 2013 season set a record, with \$2.1 million in sales. Six markets are accepting the Electronic

Benefits Transfer (EBT) card system, allowing families to purchase local produce and food items as part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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