Fresh fruits, vegetables at market

By Dr. Brigid McCrea
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The backyard gardener can certainly appreciate the work involved with growing plants for consumption and for beautification. How about selling your products at a farmer’s market?

The Delaware State University Farmers Market is back for its second year. The market — coordinated through the joint efforts of DSU employees Nancy Wagner, Community Relations director, and John Clendaniel, Small Farm coordinator for Cooperative Extension — is near the administration building at the front of the campus; it is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Oct. 18.

On one of my recent visits to the market, I was overwhelmed with both the bounty and beauty of offerings. Imagine baskets full of ripe produce fresh picked each Friday night and Saturday morning. These delectable fruits and veggies are then delivered to the DSU Farmers Market for customers eager to purchase fresh foods from local farms.

Farmers markets are very convenient as the vendors bring their freshly grown goods to you. Consumers are likely to find more varieties of produce at competitive prices without having to drive out to farm sites.

According to the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service, “...direct marketing of farm products through farmers markets continues to be an important sales outlet for agricultural producers nationwide. Today, there are more than 4,300 farmers markets operating throughout the nation.”

The DSU’s Farmers Market offers a variety of locally grown produce, flowers, fruit, and handmade soaps. As the summer progresses, you can expect to see more fresh and unique products arriving weekly. These items include cage-free eggs, tomatoes, onions, radishes, lettuce (hydroponic, natural, and other specialty types), green beans, potatoes, asparagus, herbs (large bunches and whole plants), strawberries, melons, and handmade herbal soaps.

Dover resident and Farmers Market vendor, contact either Nancy Wagner, nwagner@desu.edu or (302) 857-6425.

Editor’s note: Dr. Brigid McCrea is Delaware State University’s poultry specialist.