

The Winter Farmers' Market

• PRODUCE AMIDST FROST •

By Bill Lubing

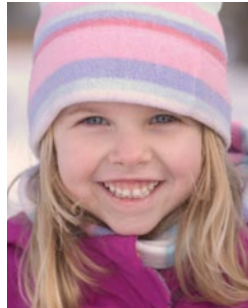


The last of the leaves have long since blown from the trees. We've shoveled more snow than we thought could ever fall from the sky. Until winter breaks this fierce grip we're consigned to the doldrums of canned vegetables, dried herbs, and a good movie or book to get us through another Saturday. Or are we?

For those of us fortunate enough to live in the Madison, Wisconsin area, the Dane County Winter Farmers' Market provides a respite from what we've expected to be the winter blues when it comes to fresh and lively farm products.

Continuing through April 14, 2007, every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at the Senior Center, 330 West Mifflin Street in Madison, Wisconsin, the Dane County Winter Farmers' Market features fresh local vegetables, meat, fruit, plants, bread, pastries, and more. It's a great place to enjoy local food, meet old friends, and discover new culinary treasures.

Besides the great food from the vendors, there are two



other special attractions that have helped nurture a faithful crowd at the market.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. and running until approximately 11:00 a.m. each week, the "Taste of the Market" provides a tasty breakfast created from the products of local vendors. For \$6.50 for a full breakfast (\$3.50 for children or those with smaller appetites), Ben Hunter and Mary White of Underground Food Collective (www.undergroundfoodcollective.org) specialize in using

local products in their menu planning. Guest chefs will include those from Slow Food Wisconsin on March 17, UW Dietetics and Nutrition Club on March 24, Terese Allen and Guests on March 31, and the University Club on April 7.

And then there's the music. While savoring your breakfast you can enjoy live music provided by different artists each week. Featuring primarily acoustic instruments and vocals, the top-notch local musicians entertain while adding to the pleasant, relaxing atmosphere of the market.

Looking at our tundra-like scenery, it seems impossible that fresh local produce could be offered at this time of the



BUSINESS BUZZING AS USUAL.
Despite the winter chill, Dale of Marsden's Pure Honey does brisk business at the Dane County Winter Farmers' Market.





year. Well, even when the temperatures dip below zero, it's possible to raise fresh vegetables in Wisconsin using various hot house techniques. So on any given Saturday don't be surprised to find fresh greens, tomatoes, and other vegetables.

Alongside the fresh greens, look for beef, lamb, eggs, poultry, pork, bread, cheese, and honey at the market along with potatoes, mushrooms, pastries, cheesecake, and apples. While availability of different products varies from week to week, there is plenty to choose from at the Dane County Winter Farmers' Market.

The Senior Center provides an intimate, friendly atmosphere for some of those vendors you may have visited during the summer market. Showing up during the winter are some of our favorite vendors, including Fountain Prairie Farm and Inn, Sylvan Meadows Farm, Cress Spring Bakery, Blue Mont Dairy, Renaissance Farm, and Marsden's Pure Honey, plus many more.



PRODUCE AND COMMUNITY ALL YEAR LONG. (Top) Whether it's a leisurely breakfast or neighborly chat, patrons enjoy the relaxed atmosphere at the Dane County Winter Farmers' Market. (Below left) Julie Sutter of Sutters Ridge loves the winter market while a bountiful harvest of tomatoes and greens from Don's Produce (Below) make for fresh winter fixings.



• MORE INFORMATION •

DANE COUNTY WINTER FARMERS' MARKET

To learn more or to sign up for the very informative weekly email newsletter go to: www.dcfm.org, telephone Market Manager Larry Johnson at (608) 455-1999 or write the Market at P.O. Box 1485, Madison, WI 53701-1485.



<i>Places</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Features & Websites</i>
CHEESECAKES TO YOU, LLC	117 S. Franklin St. Stoughton, WI 53589	PH. (608) 873-3120 chad@cheesecakestoyou.com	Elegant, specialty cheesecakes made with the finest ingredients, delivered right to your door. Home bakery using all natural ingredients. Delivery is free within a 10 mile radius of Madison and in Stoughton. www.cheesecakestoyou.com
PRAIRIE RIDGE CHEESE	8772 County Rd. PD Verona, WI 53593	PH. (608) 437-8129 PH. (800) 235-3268 Fx. (608) 437-4924 prcheese@mhtc.net	More than 50 varieties of cheeses come from Wisconsin's best factories. The Colby, Baby Swiss, and aged Cheddar have all won state awards. Also available: honey, maple syrup, jams, mustards, cranberry chutney dried cherries, wild rice, sausages, cranberries, chocolates, pancake and muffin mixes in decorative bags. Visa and MasterCard accepted. www.cheesecheesecheese.com
THE ELEGANT FARMER	1545 Main St. Mukwonago, WI 53149	PH. (262) 363-6770 Fx. (262) 363-6774 information@elegantfarmer.com	Fruit, produce, pumpkin, squash. Fabulous "Apple Pie Baked in a Paper Bag" Farm Kitchen Deli 100% homemade, Cider Baked Ham, nine varieties of homegrown popcorn, Wisconsin honey. www.elegantfarmer.com
FORTNERS	P.O. Box 143 Lake Mills, WI 53551	PH. (920) 262-9619	Salt-free seasonings (no sugar, no salt, no MSG, no preservatives), blended seasonings to complement seafood, variety of meats including: pork, poultry, beef, chicken, vegetable dishes, casserole dishes, and pasta dishes. Check or money order accepted. Website not available.
CHARLIE'S SMOKE HOUSE	12731 State Hwy. 42 Ellison Bay, WI 54210	PH. (920) 854-2972 Fx. (920) 854-9533 charlie@charliessmokehouse.com	Smoked fish, Pacific salmon, chubs, whitefish, Atlantic salmon fillets, smoked fish sausage. Gift boxes available, shipped right to your door. Website not available.
ARTAMOS SPECIALTY MEATS & DELI	714 S. Whitney Way Madison, WI 53711	PH. (608) 442-5929 Fx. (608) 442-5930 info@artamos.com	All the organic meats featured at Artamos Meats & Deli are free-range and raised without hormones, antibiotics and steroids. In addition, the animals are fed an all-organic vegetarian diet (no animal by-products), which is particularly important. Organic beef, pork and chicken products are provided by co-ops of small family farms or directly from the individual farm in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa www.artamos.com
MACFARLANE PHEASANTS, INC	2821 S. Hwy. 51 Janesville, WI 53546	PH. (800) 345-8348 PH. (608) 757-7881 Fx. (608) 757-7884 bonnie@pheasant.com	Not only pheasant, explore exotic and wild game meat—quail, elk, alligator, ostrich, rabbit, buffalo, venison. Gift boxes and baskets available. www.pheasant.com
TREMBLAYS SWEET SHOP	10569 Main St. P.O. Box 228 Hayward, WI 54843	PH. (715) 634-2785 Fx. (715) 634-7830	Old-fashioned candies. Featuring old-fashioned candy, famous fudge, turtles, peanut and cashew brittle. Open April until December 31. Website not available.
PENZEYS	3252 University Ave., Madison, WI, 53705 and 19300 W. Janacek Ct., Brookfield, WI 53045	PH. (608) 238-5776 (Madison) PH. (262) 785-7637 (Brookfield)	Herbs, seasonings, and spices. Gift boxes available. Specialty spices, mills, and containers, Zassenhaus Peppermills from Germany. Wedding gift boxes available, recipes available on website. www.penzeys.com
A TOUCH OF THE NORTH	205 W. Chicago Ave. P.O. Box 1034 Minoqua, WI 54548	PH. (715) 356-1038 Fx. (715) 356-1926 info@touchofthenorth.net	Dressings, dips, and salsas. Dave's Gourmet food products, jams, jellies, mustards, relishes, hot sauces, honey butters, marinades. Nationwide shipping available. www.touchofthenorth.net

Tell us where to go!



Lets' face it, we don't know *all* the good places to get great food...yet. Tell us about your favorite places and earn the gratitude of thousands (as well as getting your name in *Bountiful Cupboard*).

Send your submissions to: info@bountifulcupboard.com