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Farmers Tailgate Markets Open for Spring in the Southern Mountains

COVID-19 precautions still in effect; some markets offer Double SNAP incentives

ASHEVILLE, NC (March 22, 2021)—Farmers tailgate markets are readying tents for the new season, with openings scheduled in April and May. These early spring markets will offer an array of produce, including colorful root vegetables like carrots and radishes, tender lettuces and salad greens, cold-hardy greens like kale and spinach, mushrooms, spring alliums, and much more. In addition to produce, market vendors will have meats, cheese, eggs, bread, and prepared foods as well as a wide selection of plant starts.

Opening dates for markets in the Southern Mountains (Henderson, Transylvania, and Polk counties) are:

- **Columbus Farmers' Market:** May 1, Saturdays, 8 a.m.–noon, May 1-Oct. 30, 40 Courthouse St.
- **Flat Rock Farmers Market:** April 29, Thursdays, 3–6 p.m., 1790 Greenville Hwy.
- **Henderson County Curb Market:** April 1, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 8 a.m.–2 p.m., 221 N. Church St.
- **Henderson County Tailgate Market:** April 3, Saturdays, 8 a.m.–noon, 100 N. King St.
- **Hendersonville Farmers Market,** May 8, Saturdays, 8 a.m.–1 p.m., 650 Maple St.
- **Mills River Farm Market:** May 1, Saturdays, 8 a.m.–noon, 94 School House Rd.
- **Transylvania Farmers' Market:** year-round, Saturdays, 10 a.m.–noon, 200 E. Main St.

Many COVID-19 precautions, including social distancing, limiting the number of shoppers, and mask requirements, are still in effect. Check individual market websites and signage for details and updates.

ASAP's Double SNAP program will continue at Hendersonville Farmers Market, Mills River Farm Market, and Transylvania Farmers' Market, as well as an additional five markets in Buncombe County. Double SNAP is a one-to-one match on dollars spent through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program at farmers markets. For every dollar spent using SNAP/EBT, customers get twice that amount to buy fresh, healthy food from local farms and vendors. Find details about this and other farmers market SNAP incentive programs at asapconnections.org/snap.

There are more than 100 farmers markets across the Appalachian Grown region, which includes Western North Carolina as well as surrounding counties in Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina. For a complete list of markets visit asapconnections.org/farmersmarkets or use ASAP's online *Local Food Guide* at appalachiangrown.org. The 2021 print *Local Food Guide* will hit the stands in late April.

[High-resolution photos available. Contact Sarah Hart at sarah@asapconnections.org.]

ABOUT ASAP (APPALACHIAN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT)

ASAP's mission is to help local farms thrive, link farmers to markets and supporters, and build healthy communities through connections to local food. To learn more, visit asapconnections.org.

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