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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Signs of the Season: Holiday Farmers Tailgate Markets are Here

ASHEVILLE, NC (November 10, 2010)—Area holiday tailgate markets have everything you need to eat local and give local this season, and there's no shortage of them this year; nearly every county—from Buncombe to Yancey—plays host to at least one. What's more, these markets offer the chance to get in the holiday spirit while mingling with neighbors and interacting directly with local farmers and artisans.

Just what can you expect to find? Look for late-season produce, meats and cheeses, wreaths and Christmas trees, baked goods, and locally made gifts—from handmade crafts to clothing and even recycled bicycles.

Asheville City Market (ACM) will join forces with Asheville Bike Recyclery for their December holiday markets (December 4, 11, and 18). The recyclery is a nonprofit organization that allows people to build and repair bikes on donation. "We're looking forward to the partnership and to offering customers the perfect opportunity to give others the gift of their unwanted bikes or pick up a used bike themselves," says ACM Manager Mike McCreary. ACM holiday hours change to 10 am-2 pm.

The 9th Annual Holiday Bazaar moves this year to the site of the North Asheville Tailgate Market on the UNCA campus and runs December 4, 11, and 18. "Farmers and vendors are excited about the new location," says Market Manager Paul Littman. "This year's bazaar will be the largest ever, with more farms, more crafts, more food, and more value added products. We hope to welcome more of Asheville to this wonderful holiday tradition." Other Buncombe County markets, including the Black Mountain Tailgate Market and the West Asheville Tailgate Market, will open for holiday markets as well—November 20 and December 7 respectively.

Markets in Henderson, Haywood, Madison, and Yancey counties will also host special holiday tailgates. Find dates, times, and details on these special markets below (dates and venues subject to change). To find more regular-season and holiday market information, visit Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture's (ASAP) website, www.asapconnections.org. For market locations, visit ASAP's online Local Food Guide at www.buyappalachian.org.

Asheville City Market

Dates: Saturdays November 27 and December 4, 11, and 18 (closed November 20 for parade)

Time/Venue: 10 am-2 pm; 161 S Charlotte

Sample offerings: Christmas trees and wreaths, holiday baked goods, and late-season vegetables. Live music November 27 with Red Hot Sugar Babies, December's music TBA; Recycle-a-Bike Event to benefit Asheville Bike Recyclery Saturdays in December.

Black Mountain Tailgate Market

Date: Saturday November 20

Time/Venue: 10 am-1 pm; 130 Montreat Rd

Sample offerings: Pasture-raised meats, produce, breads, chocolates, pies, pottery, candles, calendars, jewelry, fiber arts, woodworking, lotions, and greeting cards.

North Asheville Tailgate Market/9th Annual Holiday Bazaar

Dates: Saturdays December 4, 11, and 18

Time/Venue: 11 am-4 pm; UNCA campus

Sample offerings: Produce, crafts, gifts, meats, cheese, baked goods, chocolate, cider, coffee, and more.

West Asheville Tailgate Market

Date: Tuesday December 7

Time/Venue: 2:30-5:30 pm; 718 Haywood

Sample offerings: Produce, meats, cheeses, baked goods, and artisan craft items.

Haywood's Historic Farmers Market

Dates: Saturdays and Wednesdays November 20 and 24, December 8 and 11

Time/Venue: 9 am-noon; 250 Pigeon St

Sample offerings: Fall and winter vegetables, apples and cider, farm-raised eggs and meat, cheese, NC seafood, baked goods, preserves, and heritage crafts.

Flat Rock Tailgate Market

Date: Saturday December 4

Time/Venue: 2-5 pm; 2720 Greenville Hwy

Sample offerings: Farm-fresh food, Christmas trees, handspun scarves, dried Henderson County apples, handmade furniture, herb baskets, pizza kits, and more.

Madison County Farmers & Artisans Market

Dates: Saturdays November 20 and 27 and December 4, 11, and 18

Time/Venue: 10 am-3 pm; Fiddlestix in Mars Hill, 37 Library St

Sample offerings: Produce, meats, handcrafted gifts, and more.

Yancey County Farmers Market

Date: Saturday December 4

Time/Venue: 10 am-3 pm, in conjunction with Burnsville's Winterfest activities; 19E at South Main St

Sample offerings: Winter produce, honey, meats, and an assortment of crafts.

[High resolution photos of recent fall markets and past holiday markets available upon request.]

ABOUT APPALACHIAN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT (ASAP)

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 about their work in the region, visit asapconnections.org, or call 828-236-1282. Search their online Local Food Guide at buyappalachian.org.

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