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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Or see individual market contacts, below.

## **Spring and Tailgate Farmers Market Season Arrive**

ASHEVILLE, NC (April 5, 2010) – There’s no better way to welcome spring than going to a farmers tailgate market. Markets begin reopening in April, offering not only the freshest local food, but a chance to reconnect with neighbors and the people who grow your food, and enjoy free outdoor activities. The Asheville City Market’s downtown location at 161 South Charlotte Street opens on Saturday, April 17, 8:00a.m.-1:00p.m., and a schedule of many more markets in Buncombe County and all around the region follows.

“After such a dreary winter, I’m so looking forward to fresh produce and farmers markets’ simple pleasures like eating a fresh strawberry in the sunshine,” says market patron Brook Thompson. The first markets’ tables will display many varieties of greens, radishes, peas, asparagus, and other signs of spring. You can always shop tailgate markets for eggs; meats, many of them grass fed and naturally raised; baked goods, sweet and savory; preserves such as jellies and dressings; and crafts. Ever more diverse markets now carry prepared foods such as mustards, frozen meals, pasta, kimchi, and tempeh too. For those who want to grow their own food, markets offer plant starts.

Another market supporter, Emily Jackson, says she goes to the farmers market for edible treats she can’t get anywhere else--“croissants from Dave, and cowgirl cookies from Amy.” (She’s referring to the owners of Farm and Sparrow and Sweet Heart Bakery by name.) Additionally, she goes “to catch up with the farmers who grow my food, and all the people who gather at markets who I haven’t seen over the winter.” Creating a festive atmosphere, Sherri Lynn & Mountain Friends Band will start off the season of live music performances at Asheville City Market’s downtown location on April 17. Many other markets provide live music and activities.

Also on opening day, April 17, Asheville City Market will team up with Greenworks and host the One Stop Drop Recycling Bazaar. The Bazaar is a community drop-off for hard to recycle materials including Styrofoam, rechargeable batteries, expired pharmaceuticals, plastic plant pots, moving boxes, computers, #5 plastics, and cell phones. Dispose of your recyclables responsibly throughout market hours.

“Come to the market and do good, by buying locally (and recycling). And have a good time too,” Market Manager Mike McCreary urges. “Winter is over. Let’s celebrate.”

Find the farmers tailgate market in your community on the list below, or by visiting [www.buyappalachian.org](http://www.buyappalachian.org). The nonprofit organization Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) organizes Asheville City Market, and provides support for farmers markets throughout Western North Carolina.

For more information on Greenworks’ One Stop Drop Recycling Bazaar, visit [ashevillegreenworks.org](http://ashevillegreenworks.org).

### **ABOUT THE APPALACHIAN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT**

ASAP is helping to rebuild the local economy, preserve rural land and heritage, encourage sustainable agricultural practices, and increase access to fresher, healthier foods. We work to keep farmers farming and to reconnect people with their food. We involve businesses, shoppers, chefs, children, seniors, healthcare providers, teachers, and all community members in the local food movement.

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## Alleghany County, NC

### **Alleghany County Farmers Market**

**Where:** County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 21.

**When:** Sat., 8:00am – noon.

**Open:** May 8.

## Alleghany County, NC

### **Blue Ridge Farmers Market LLC**

**Where:** At "The Gap" next to Nikola's restaurant in Roaring Gap, NC. 3.5 miles south on Hwy. 21 from Mile Marker 229 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. 10 Miles from Sparta, NC.

**When:** Thu., 1:00pm - 6:00pm.

Fri., 8:00am – 6:00pm.

Sat., 9:00am – 12:00pm.

**Open:** May 23.

## Ashe County, NC

### **Ashe County Farmers Market**

**Where:** Back St. runs parallel to the main shopping district of West Jefferson. The market is located directly across from Pet Tails pet shop.

**When:** Wed., 8:00am - 1:00pm.

Sat., 8:00am - 1:00pm.

**Open:** April 10.

## Avery County, NC

### **Avery County Farmers Market**

**Where:** Upper Parking lot of Newland Elementary School.

**When:** Sat., 8:00am – noon.

**Open:** May 15.

## Buncombe County, NC

### **Asheville City Market**

**Where:** Located downtown in the parking lot of the Public Works Building at 161 S. Charlotte St.

**When:** Sat., 8:00am - 1:00pm.

**Open:** April 17.

### **Asheville City Market - South**

**Where:** Biltmore Town Square Boulevard.

**When:** Wed., 2:00pm - 6:00pm.

**Open:** May 5.

### **Big Ivy Tailgate Market**

**Where:** In the parking lot of the old Barnardsville fire station, across from the post office, on Hwy 197.

**When:** Sat., 9:00am – noon.

**Open:** May 1.

### **Black Mountain Tailgate Market**

**Where:** 130 Montreat Rd., Black Mountain, NC.

**When:** Sat., 9:00am – noon.

**Open:** May 5.

### **Greenlife Sunday Market**

**Where:** Greenlife Grocery, 70 Merrimon Ave., just north of the 1-240 Connector.

**When:** Sun., 9:00am - 1:00pm.

**Open:** May 5.

### **Mission Hospital Tailgate Market**

**Where:** Market is set up at the back entrance to the Mission Hospital Heart Center on the Memorial Campus.

**When:** Thu., 10:00am - 2:00pm.

**Open:** May 13.

### **North Asheville Tailgate Market**

**Where:** On the UNC Asheville (UNCA) Campus Commuter Lot #C. Take Weaver Blvd. and follow signs.

**When:** Sat., 8:00am – noon.

**Open:** April 17.

### **Riceville Tailgate Market**

**Where:** Adjacent to the parking area of the Riceville Community Center, next door to the Riceville Volunteer Fire Department.

**When:** Sat., 9:00am – noon.

**Open:** May 28.

### **Victory Tailgate Market**

**Where:** In the parking lot adjacent to ABCCM Veterans Restoration Quarters, on Tunnel Rd. past the VA Center and the Blue Ridge Parkway Entrance.

**When:** Wed., 3:00pm - 6:00pm.

**Open:** June 2.

### **Weaverville Tailgate Market**

**Where:** On the hill overlooking Lake Louise, behind the yellow Community Center, on Weaverville Hwy. just south of downtown Weaverville.

**When:** Wed., 2:30pm - 6:30pm.

**Open:** April 14.

### **Wednesday Co-op Market**

**Where:** 76 Biltmore Ave., in the parking lot next to the French Broad Food Coop, across the street from Laurey's Catering, in front of Build it Naturally.

**When:** Wed., 2:00pm - 6:30pm.

**Open:** May 5.

### **West Asheville Tailgate Market**

**Where:** Market is located at 718 Haywood Rd., in the parking area between the Grace Baptist Church and Sun Trust Bank.

**When:** Tue., 3:30pm - 6:30pm.

**Open:** April 20.

## Burke County, NC

### **Burke County Farmers Market**

**Where:** In parking lot across from Town Hall.

**When:** Wed., 8:00am – noon.

Fri., 2:00pm - 6:00pm.

**Open:** in May.

### **Morganton Farmers Market**

**Where:** Located just behind Geppetto's Pizza on Beach St. Exit 105 off I-40. Take Hwy. 18N and turn right on Beach St.

**When:** Sat., 8:00am - 1:00pm.

**Open:** May 8.

## Caldwell County, NC

### **Caldwell County Tailgate Market**

**Where:** Located at the Caldwell County main library in Lenoir.

**When:** Sat., 6:00am – noon.

**Open:** May 2.

## Cherokee County, NC

### **Andrews Farmers Market**

**Where:** First St. in Andrews, NC

**When:** Sat., 8:00am – noon.

**Open:** June 5.

### **Cedar Valley Farmers Market**

**Where:** Downtown Murphy on the square. In the pocket parks on the corners of Peachtree and Tennessee St.

**When:** Sat., 10:00am - 2:00pm.

**Open:** April 3.

### **Hayesville Tailgate Market**

Local farmers and local crafters. All items locally made and locally grown. Organic produce available May through Oct.

**Where:** Hayesville Historic Town Sq.

**When:** Sat., 9:00am - 2:00pm.

**Open:** June 1.

## Clay County, NC

### **Mountain Valley Farmers Market**

**Where:** Old Courthouse Sq. in downtown Hayesville.

**When:** Sat., 8:00am – noon.

**Open:** May 1.

## Graham County, NC

### **Graham County Farmers Market**

**Where:** Located at United Community Bank parking lot next to Ingles in Robbinsville, NC.

**When:** Sat., 8:30am - 1:00pm.

**Open:** May 1.

### **Stecoah Tailgate Market**

**Where:** On the grounds of the Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center--a restored 1926 community schoolhouse.

**When:** Sat., 4:00pm - 7:00pm.

**Open:** June 26.

## Haywood County, NC

### **Canton Tailgate Market**

**Where:** At the town hall in the municipal parking lot on Park St.

**When:** Tue., 7:00am – noon.

Sat., 7:00am – noon.

**Open:** June 1.

### **Haywood's Historic Farmers Market**

**Where:** Located in Waynesville at the HART Theater and Shelton House parking lot on Pigeon St. (Hwy. 276).

**When:** Wed., 8:00am - 1:00pm.

Sat., 8:00am - 1:00pm.

**Open:** May 12.

### **Waynesville Tailgate Market**

**Where:** At the American Legion, just off S. Main St., Waynesville. Behind Bogart's.

**When:** Wed., 8:00am – noon.

Sat., 8:00am – noon.

**Open:** May 12.

## Henderson County, NC

### **Flat Rock Tailgate Market**

**Where:** Located in the parking area behind the Hand in Hand Gallery in Flat Rock on the Greenville Hwy. (225 S.), just south of the Flat Rock Play House.

**When:** Thu., 3:00pm - 6:00pm.

**Open:** April 22.

### **Henderson County Tailgate Market**

**Where:** 100 N. King St. (between First and Second Ave.) in downtown Hendersonville.

**When:** Sat., 7:00am – noon.

**Open:** mid April.

### **Hendersonville Community Co-op Tailgate Market**

**Where:** In the parking lot of the Hendersonville Community Co-op.

**When:** Mon., 3:00pm - 6:00pm.

**Open:** May 17.

### **Henderson County Curb Market**

**Where:** Church St.(US 25 South), directly across from the old courthouse Hendersonville.

**When:** Tue., 8:00am - 2:00pm.

Thu., 8:00am - 2:00pm.

Sat., 8:00am - 2:00pm.

**Open:** year round.

### **Mills River Farm Market**

**Where:** Directly off of NC 280 in the Mills River Commons Shopping Center.

**When:** Sat., 9:00am – noon.

**Open:** TBD.

## Jackson County, NC

### **Cashiers Tailgate Market**

**Where:** In the parking lot of Cashiers Community Center on Hwy. 107 between Cashiers and Highlands.

**When:** Wed., noon -5:00pm.

Sat., 8:00am - 1:00pm.

**Open:** May 1.

### **Jackson County Farmers Market**

**Where:** In the municipal parking lot next to Bridge Park.

**When:** Sat., 9:00am – noon.

**Open:** May.

## Macon County, NC

### **Franklin Tailgate Market**

**Where:** West Palmer St., across the street from the old post office, between the barber shop and the antique store.

**When:** Sat., 8:00am – noon.

**Open:** June 5.

### **Friends of the Rickman Store**

**Where:** At the historical T.M. Rickman General Store in Cowee-West's Mill Historic District. Next to Cowee Elementary School. Seven miles north of Franklin by Hwy. NC 28.

**When:** Fri., 3:00pm - 7:00pm.

**Open:** May 14.

## Madison County, NC

### **Madison County Farmers and Artisans Market**

**Where:** Across from the football fields on the Mars Hill College Campus.

**When:** Sat., 9:00am - 1:00pm.

**Open:** April 3.

### **Market on South Main**

**Where:** In the parking lot between Good Stuff and the Marshall Presbyterian Church.

**When:** Wed., 3:00pm -7:00pm.

**Open:** mid to late April.

### **Sundays on the Island**

**Where:** Cross the river at the Courthouse on Main St. in downtown Marshall and immediately turn right onto the island.

**When:** Sun., noon - 4:00pm.

**Open:** May.

## McDowell County, NC

### **Historic Marion Tailgate Market**

**Where:** One block from Main St. in a municipal parking lot.

**When:** Tue., 3:00pm - 6:00pm.

Sat., 9:00am – noon.

**Open:** May 18.

## Mitchell County, NC

### **Bakersville Farmers Market**

**Where:** In the Bakersville Community Medical Clinic parking lot, opposite the US Post Office.  
**When:** Sat., 8:00am – noon.  
**Open:** May 22.

### **Spruce Pine Farmers Market**

**Where:** On Pollyanna's Porch, next to Wildflowers, on Upper St. in downtown Spruce Pine.  
**When:** Wed., 2:00pm - 5:30pm  
**Open:** June 26.

## **Polk County, NC**

### **Columbus Tailgate Market**

**Where:** Courthouse St. in front of the historic Polk County Courthouse.  
**When:** Sat., 8:00am - 11:30pm.  
**Open:** April 10.

### **Green Creek Tailgate Market.**

**Where:** On Rte. 9 in Green Creek, Columbus.  
**When:** Tue., 5:00pm - 7:00pm.  
**Open:** May 4.

### **Saluda Tailgate Market**

**Where:** Westend city municipal parking.  
**When:** Fri., 4:30pm - 6:30pm.  
**Open:** May 7.

### **Tryon Tailgate Market**

**Where:** On Trade St.in Tryon.  
**When:** Thu., 4:00pm - 6:30pm.  
**Open:** May 6.

## **Rutherford County, NC**

### **Lake Lure Market**

**Where:** In the parking lot between the Lake Lure beach and the ABC Store.  
**When:** Tue., 8:00am - 2:00pm.  
Sat., 8:00am - 2:00pm.  
**Open:** April 3.

### **Rutherford County Farmers Market**

**Where:** From Business Highway 74 in Spindale, turn onto Fairgrounds Rd. Rutherford County Farmers Market is approximately 1/4 mile on the right in the white pole barn at 260 Fairgrounds Rd.  
**When:** Tue., 7:00am – noon.  
Fri., 7:00am – noon.  
**Open:** May 28.

## **Swain County, NC**

### **Cherokee Farmers Tailgate Market**

**Where:** Located on Acquoni Rd. in downtown Cherokee. From NC 19 turn onto Acquoni Rd. Drive about 1 mile and look for yellow farmer market sign.  
**When:** Fri., 10:00am - 2:00pm.  
**Open:** June 18.

### **Swain County Tailgate Market**

**Where:** Bryson City. The tailgate market is located in the parking lot beside Fred's Market. Take Bryson City Exit 67, go to the second light take right onto Old Hwy. 19 West. 100 yards on left.

**When:** Fri., 9:00am - 1:00pm.

**Open:** June.

## Transylvania County, NC

### **Transylvania Tailgate Market.**

**Where:** Located in the parking lot behind Comporium on the corner of Jordan and Johnson St.

**When:** Tue., 3:00pm - 7:00pm.

Thu., 8:00am - 1:00pm.

Sat., 8:00am - 1:00pm.

**Open:** June.

## Watauga County, NC

### **Valle Crucis Farmers Market at Mast General**

**Where:** Valle Crucis.

**When:** Fri., 2:00pm - 6:00pm.

**Open:** June.

## Watauga County, NC

### **Watauga County Farmers Market**

**Where:** On Highway 105 Extension in Boone, turn next to First Citizens Bank. We are at the top of the hill on the left. Location to be confirmed.

**When:** Wed., 4:00pm - 6:30pm.

Sat., 8:00am – noon.

**Open:** May 1.

## Yancey County, NC

### **Yancey County Farmers Market**

**Where:** Highway 19E at South Main St. Burnsville.

**When:** Sat., 8:30am - 12:30pm.

**Open:** April 24.