



COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

December 20th, 2014

To whom it may concern:

In April 2011 a group of farmers and community partners started an innovative and collaborative farmers market on the grounds of Western Kentucky University. University personnel and farmer partnerships continued through student engagement, farmer participation at university events and promotion of a stronger local food system throughout South Central, Kentucky. Through a USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program grant WKU and CFM have collaborated to develop a mobile farmers market, Double Dollars program for SNAP, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Vouchers and Big Red Dollars. In addition, other innovative programs such as the well attended Food Day events held on campus three years in a row have led the way state wide for similar partnerships between farmers and universities.

CFM and WKU have been able to overcome many obstacles that have previously stood in the way of local farmers and food system development. An emphasis has been made to ensure that everyone in our community has access to fresh, local food. To date, Community Farmers Market has made available \$30,000 in fresh local food for low-income families, every dollar of which was returned to our local economy. In order to maintain this program, Community Farmers Market receives donations from local partners. Because of the success of these programs WKU and CFM have been invited to share the story of our partnership at several conferences, trainings and events.

If you would like to discuss the partnership of Community Farmers Market and Western Kentucky University in greater detail please contact me at the email address or phone number listed below.

Best Regards,

Michelle Howell

Coordinator/Farmer

Local Food For Everyone/Community Farmers Market

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