



KANSAS CITY FOOD CIRCLE

The KCFC Update: Summer 2009

Eat Local Expos Succeed Despite Bad Weather

An unusual snowstorm reduced attendance at the March 28 Shawnee event, but overall, our 11th *Annual Eat Local - Exhibition of Farmers* was still a success. Total attendance at both the west-side and east-side events was 1,600 compared to 1,656 last year.

Some 710 local food fans (compared to 970 last year) braved the sleet and snow to make the Shawnee event. Some 30 intrepid vendors made it, but we lost 10 vendors from the south and west where the weather was worse.

Attendance at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center in Independence increased to 890 people compared to 686 in 2008. There clearly is a continuing strong interest in local organic food on the east side of the metro area. Attendance at both of the free workshops was surprisingly good as well.

Seventy-nine percent of the people who attended the Shawnee event live in Kansas and 67 percent live in Johnson County. Ninety-two percent of the people who attended the Independence event live in Missouri and 42 percent live in the City of Independence.

Clearly location makes a big difference in who attends these events. The percentage of *first-time* visitors at our expo events was 70 percent in Shawnee and 81 percent in Independence. Introducing new people to the joys of eating local organic and free range is the main purpose of the *Eat Local* Expos.

Given our continuing success *we have already reserved the Shawnee Civic Center for Saturday, March 27, 2010 and the Sermon Center in Independence for Saturday, April 3, 2009.* Please mark your calendar.

It's Farmers Market Time Again!

Despite a cool spring, more produce is fast becoming available. Most of our producers sell at one or more farmers markets in the K.C. Metro area. Please see the individual producers' listings to find out where.

In addition, the KC Food Circle endorses a number of all-organic and free-range farmers markets. We now have seven organic farmers markets! For details about location and programs, go to the "Organic Farmers Markets" section of our directory, or go to www.kcfoodcircle.org and click on Organic Farmers Markets. Mission Farms, our newest entry, is listed only on our Web site.

More Farmers Join KC Food Circle

We experienced a surge in new producer memberships in 2009. We now have 68 producer-members compared to 61 in 2008. Below is a list of these new members. Those who joined after the deadline for our printed directory are denoted by "Web" which means they are listed only on our Web site.

- A & B Homecoming Beef
- Bryant Family Farm (Web)
- Crum's Heirlooms
- Foxfire Farm
- Fruitful Hills CSA
- Gasper Family Farm
- Harmony Farms
- Huns Garden
- Iwig Family Dairy (Web)
- Janzen Family Farms
- Lone Star Lake Bison Ranch
- Moon on the Meadow
- Platte Prairie Farms
- R & W Dexter Natural Beef
- Schenker Family Farms
- The Little Muddy
- Thorne Acres

Please check out our new producer-members in our 2009 *Directory of Local Organic and Free Range Producers*. By now our eater-members should have received their printed directory either by attending one of our expo events or by mail. Our new producer listings are also on our Web site: www.kcfoodcircle.org/growermembers/. This page will be updated throughout the year.



KCFC Volunteers at Work

As the 2009 growing season gets up and running, the KC Food Circle volunteers are making a difference across the city and in a number of venues.



Top Photo: Ben Kjelshus discusses the Kansas City branch of Food Not Lawns during the How to Eat Local workshop held at the March 28 Shawnee expo. This workshop also covered CSAs, farmers markets and community gardens.

Bottom Photo: Peter Stauffacher spreads the word about the KC Organics & Natural Market.



Top Photo: The first of two annual Eat Local expos was held on March 28 in Shawnee. Numerous Food Circle volunteers worked hard all day long to make the event a success. Thanks to all the volunteers, too numerous to mention, who took the time to help.

Bottom Photo: At the 13th annual EarthWalk and 5th annual EarthFest hosted by Bridging the Gap on May 9, Food Circle volunteers joined the "Greener Eats" village to promote local food. Emily Akins (left) and Season Burnett (right) of the Kansas City CSA Coalition helped spread the word about community supported agriculture in the area.



Our thanks also to all the volunteers who helped with the April 4 Independence expo and to David Lawrence (not pictured) for staffing the KCFC table at the UMB Earth Day event and the 3rd annual GreenAcres Market Tasting Fair & BBQ Cook-off.

KCFC volunteers Roena Haynie, Denise Mann and Craig Volland (not pictured) also staffed the KC Food Circle table nearby.

This UPDATE is a Kansas City Food Circle original publication. Past issues are archived at KCFoodCircle.org. For more information, write to: KC Food Circle, P.O. Box 45195, KCMO, 64171.