

Farmgate Roundup 4/2/06

Simon Marnie 702 AM and Liz Stephens

Salutations!

- Our orchards up in the Hawkesbury Highlands are in full swing at the moment. This weekend would be a good time to take a drive up the Bells Line of Road to Kurrajong and Bilpin. Have a look at the Farmgate map on our website for all the other places you can visit while you're buying your fresh produce. When you're here you might think about buying an endangered Wollemi Pine to plant in your garden. The last few in existence were found in this area. You'll be helping to keep these amazing trees going.

- Enniskillen Orchard in Kurrajong have fresh figs, raspberries, blackberries, peaches & Nashi pears in season, they also do a great variety of home made jams using all their own fruit. John Maguire recommended the fig jam.

- Tutti Frutti in Bilpin have new season Gala apples, passionfruit and passionfruit syrup. They also have all the berries, fresh raspberries, blueberries and blackberries. Try some Tutti Frutti jam combining all the berries.
You could also try one of Cynthia's fruit shakes or a berry blast made of 100% Fruit. Extremely good for you.

- At Pine Crest Orchard in Bilpin you can pick your own apples, you pay for what you pick. John tells me that they have the Royal Gala apples this week, the Royal Gala variety is actually a ½ golden delicious and originated in NZ, if you're interested in it's origins grower John Galbraith is a mine of information and can fill you in.

- For those more interested in the taste, you will find the Royal Gala very sweet with not much acid. Apparently too, if you see Gala in the shops at this time (ie after Xmas) you can be sure that the apples are new season. Gala apples don't keep long in cold storage unlike many other varieties that could have been in cold storage since last April. Also, next week Pine Crest will have fresh Jonathons and Golden Delicious apples ready to pick. They have

some peaches now and there'll be plums later. We'll keep you posted.

- It's Valentines Day on the 14th of February, so don't forget the roses on the Farmgate Trail. Nati Bros in Dural have a good selection this week. David will fill you in next week on what is around for Valentines Day on the Farmgate Trail.

- Next week don't miss the Hawkesbury Harvest Farmers and Gourmet Market. It's the first one for the year and you'll find all sorts of interesting food and plant items. You can buy fresh fruit and vegetables straight from the farmer, certified organic bread, always a popular item, fresh duck, all the smoked meats, organic coffee, fresh eggplant or pumpkin pasta, local olives and goats cheese as well as potted plants and fresh picked flowers. It's all local and it's fresh.

- If you go to the Hawkesbury Harvest website and look under Latest news you will find a link to our newly revised itineraries. The Farmgate Trail is too big to cover in a day so we've come up with four very different routes that you can take when you get on the trail.

- Growers markets are taking off all around the country, Dubbo are holding their first farmers market today on the lawns of the Visitor information Centre, we wish them well.

- For more information about Farmgate log onto www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au you'll find all sorts of interesting information about our growers our short trips and plenty more.