

FARM GATE ROUNDUP Saturday 6th January 2007

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Alan Good Morning,

Good Morning Ian, good to speak with you again and Happy New Year

What's happening on the Farm Gate Trail this weekend;

Ian with the Oranges winding down across the region and the Apples starting I thought I would put the listeners into a time machine at Bilpin, the home of Apples and take them from January to June with respect to the Apple Season.

Before we jump into the time machine, do the Apples know what month it is?

Good Point Ian, the climate actually controls the development of the Apple. Within Bilpin there will be from a few days to a week difference, which is the effect of altitude on climate. Berambing, just a few kilometres up Bells Line of Road would be about a week later than Bilpin and just a few kilometres to the east it can be a week earlier.

What about the Colour?

Red is nice, but be wary, because although the colour is nice it is really the favour you are after, If you pick an apple too much before the process that turns starch into sugar it is unlikely the apple will continue to improve in flavour.

Picked after this process has started to occur the apple will still continue to improve its flavour and sugar levels.

What Apples are around now in Bilpin ?.

| <u>Variety</u> | Picking Date | Comments |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tydeman's Early | Now (January) | Tangy Like a Jonathon |
| Akane | Mid January | Sweet |
| Gravenstein | Late Jan: 2nd week Feb | Sweet |
| Gala | Late Jan: 2nd week Feb | Sweet |

When Does the Jonathon arrive ?

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Jonathon | Mid Feb: late Feb | |
| Delicious Red | Late Feb: mid March | Sweet |
| Braeburn | Mid March: late March | Sweet / Slightly Tart |

What about the Fuji ?

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Fuji | Late March; early April | Sweet |
| Granny Smith | Late March: late April | Tangy to Sweet |
| Pink Lady | Mid April: early May | Tangy to Sweet |
| Sundowner | Late April: mid May | Tangy to Sweet |

What happening with the other Fruits

Plenty of Peaches and Nectarines and Strawberries can be found at the Galston road side stall. Look out for the Hawkesbury Harvest sign on the road side stall just out of the Village. Phillip called toady and said the flavour of the yellow preaches was to die for and they have the tastiest Strawberries..

Down in Grose Vale, you can get Local white and yellow nectarines, plums, white and yellow peaches, plums. John Maguire from Enniskillen Orchard has some early season Apples, the Anna, that come from Maroota. He says they are very tasty.

The fresh Vegies

Vicki called from the Hawkesbury Vegies Farm and told me there are plenty of fresh vegies out on the trail.

The Honey Dew and Rock Melons are fantastic, Watermelons will be here in 2 weeks, but there is plenty of capsicums, gerkins and the egg plant, Chinese and Plain Cabbage, Cos Lettuce Broccoli, Cauliflower, Chicory, Leeks, Beetroot, Rhubarb, Carrots, Potatoes, Beans, and Free Ranges Eggs.

Can they get other produce on the Trail,

Yes Ian, Game in Crosslands, Wine at Ebenezer, Maroota South and Luddenham, Duck in South Windsor, Roses, Geraniums in Dural and

freshly cut Flowers in Box Hill. You can also cuddle an Alpaca at Tennyson.

Anything events on,

Pine Crest Orchard has a special open day on the 20th January.

You will be able to pick Akane and Gravenstein Apples, Peaches, Nashi Pears and Plums. In another 7 day the Williams pear will be available.

There will be a BBQ at 11.30, but get there early so you can have fun picking your own apples.

Shields Orchard has also opened for the season. Peaches are ready now and the apples will be along very soon.

Mount Tomah Botanical Gardens has a host of mini events for both the big and small kids.

Macquarie Towns Art Society has a series School Holiday Workshops in January.

Listeners can get all this information on the website by going to

www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au