

City of Bristol Tennessee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Farmers Market Association Conference to be Hosted in Bristol



Appalachian Farmers Market Association (AFMA) will host its 5th annual conference and winter market on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at the Slater Center, 325 McDowell Street in Bristol, Tennessee. A full day of presentations and workshops related to local food production and marketing will be presented. Farmers Market vendors, consumers, market managers, small farmers, gardeners, crafters and anyone interested in local foods will benefit from attending the conference.

The conference will also be addressing many issues facing today's farmer on the business side of farming, such as season extension, double cropping, market promotions, food processing rules for Tennessee and Virginia, utilizing social media, EBT and social programs at the markets, and other interesting subjects.

Keynote speaker will be Matthew Miller, a native of Wythe County, VA and an eighth-generation farmer on the same Miller Homestead. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a B.S. and M. S. in Animal Science. He also serves as the Extension Agent for the Virginia Cooperative Extension office.

Tamara McNaughton, will be addressing the subject of how and where to begin to organize a farmers market, Mimi Hernandez will present a lecture on traditional Appalachian foods and medicines, along with almost a dozen other presenters.

A winter market will also be showcasing several of the association's farmers and their products.

Registration is open until February 28, 2013 with a \$10 registration fee. Conference hours are from 9AM to 5PM with lunch being served at 12 Noon. Registration forms along with the \$10 fee may be mailed to Tom Peterson, Appalachian Sustainable Development, and PO Box 791, Abingdon, VA 24212-0791.

AFMA operates to support and sustain a viable network of community Farmers Markets throughout the Appalachian Region of east Tennessee and western Virginia. It is a volunteer organization comprised of representatives from each of the participating markets including Bristol's State Street Farmers Market. For more information on the conference contact Terry Napier at 423-764-4023 or e-mail tnapier@bristoltn.org.

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