

# The Market Minute

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## UNION COUNTY FARMER'S MARKET MONTHLY UPDATE

### Strawberries Are Here!

Here in Union County the month of April marks the official start of our "market season." The one fruit that symbolizes that start is STRAWBERRIES! With the harvest lasting only a few weeks, you have to be quick to get your hands on some fresh locally grown berries. Luckily here in Union County we have quite a few local farmers that grow the delicious fruit. Just like any other fruit or vegetable, growing strawberries takes a lot of time, planning, and patience. Not only that, but a little knowledge in meteorology helps too! With over 600 varieties of strawberries available, farmers must choose the right variety for this region. No worries though, with the help of your Union Co. Cooperative Extension, we can narrow down the varieties that will work best for your farm.



#### Where to Pick Your Own:

##### Cook Farms

3020 Plyler Mill Rd., Monroe

##### Hunter Farms

13624 Providence Rd., Weddington

##### Piedmont Produce

4212 Hwy 218, Monroe

##### Wise Acres Organic Farm

4701 Hartis Rd., Indian Trail

Strawberries are planted as young plants or "plugs" in early Fall. They are tended to throughout Fall, Winter and Spring with the hopes of a bountiful harvest late Spring.

You'll notice that lately the nights have been cold and the days have been fairly warm. When the strawberry plants begin to put on fruit or flowers the cold temperatures begin to affect them differently. If temps begin to fall around freezing or below the plants must be covered with "row cover" in the evening and removed the next morning. If you've ever drove by a strawberry farm this time of year you may have noticed fields covered with rows of white fabric. Although labor intensive, farmers do this to ensure that no berries are lost due to the low temperatures. Once the cold spells have passed farmers begin to harvest the ripened berries or open their farms to families and allow you to pick your own. This is a great outdoor family activity that everyone is sure to love.

# Our Market is OPEN!

Every Saturday

8am-12pm

**WE'RE GROWING!**



Union County Farmers Market will be opening our "Downtown Stallings Satellite Market" in addition to our Monroe Market on Saturday's!  
Starting in May!

**UNION COUNTY FARMERS MARKET**  
Presents:  
**OPENING MAY 1ST**

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**EVERY SATURDAY  
8AM-NOON**

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Located at Stallings Municipal Park  
340 Stallings Rd, Stallings, NC 28104

**DOWNTOWN STALLINGS  
Satellite  
Location!**







For a detailed weekly list of vendors and goods please visit our website:

<https://union.ces.ncsu.edu/union-county-local-foods/union-county-farmers-market-2/>