

## **Farmers Market in Esparto — Saturday Harvest Festival**

Esparto is set to host the second Capay Valley Regional Farmers' Market this Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Esparto Community Park. In addition to local produce, arts and crafts, the market will feature a Harvest Festival with live Mariachi music, costumes, pumpkin games, and a clown.

The opening market was a big success thanks to a number of local groups and volunteer residents dedicated to assuring the future of the region. "The Lion's Club and Esparto High School students did a bang up job," said Paul Muller, emcee of the Watermelon Festival and Board member of Capay Valley Vision. "The kids brought their appetites and had a lot of fun, but we came up a few melons short of our goal of eating one ton."

While the Farmers Market brings people together, it also showcases the products grown in the region, giving area residents and visitors alike the opportunity to purchase them.

"In addition to pumpkins, the local farms will have this year's almonds, greens, and winter squash," said Temra Costa of Community Alliance with Family Farmers and interim manager of the Farmers' Market. "This will also be the last chance to savor the tastes of summer."

The Capay Valley Regional Farmers Market is designed not just as a place to find and purchase locally grown produce, but also as a place for families to come together and for residents to meet their neighbors.

The Farmers' Market got a boost this past month with news that three grants will support its establishment. Supporters include Yolo County through its Community Enhancement Fund, Yolo County Children and Families Commission, and California Nutrition Network through a partnership with the Yolo County Food Bank.

Beyond agricultural vendors, the Capay Valley Regional Farmers' Market offers children's activities, nutrition education exhibits, arts and crafts, Dilly Dally the Clown and the Mariachi group Los Amigos del Baile. The Harvest Festival will feature a biggest pumpkin contest, pumpkin relays and costume-making. Prizes will be awarded for each of these—pumpkins, of course

The Farmers' Market will take place at the Esparto Community Park the second Saturday of each month through the end of 2004: October 9<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup>. Following a hiatus for the winter months, the market will return in April of 2005 on a weekly basis.

For more information about the Capay Valley Regional Farmers' Market, please contact Thomas Nelson at (530) 796-4160.