

The Winchester Sun

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## Beech Springs Market opens for the season

By Rachel Parsons

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 James Mann/jmann@winchestersun.com  
Beech Springs Market owner John Hendricks with some of the produce that was available from the market in October shortly before it closed for the winter. The market, which opens next week, features local produce as it b

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Tuesday, and will remain open until the end of October. The market, owned by John and Mary Beth Hendricks, offers a variety of vegetables grown in Clark County, flowers and homemade jams and jellies.

"It's a real good time to have a market, 'cause folks are looking for farm fresh vegetables," John Hendricks said.

He ought to know. John has been a successful farmer for three years, and he and wife Mary Beth grow most of the products they sell on their own farm.

"Farming has been successful. A lot of people have farmed for a lot of years. We've always been in the position that we've been able to diversify. We grew tobacco for a while and we have a beef cattle operation," John said.

The building that now houses Beech Springs was actually built by Mary Beth's grandfather in the 1940s. Four years ago, the couple found themselves with a building and no renters, so they decided to try their hands at running a market.

"It has worked out well for us," John said. "We farm, and we had grown vegetables for a number of years, and we had always talked about opening a market."

In addition to the market, Beech Springs also boasts an orchard, which includes strawberries and blackberries.

"We have our own labeled jams and jellies and sauces, and we sell those at the market," John said. "We'll also have a lot of plants and flowers when we open."

The Hendrickses also sell homemade fried apple pies, pimento cheese and chicken salad.

"The majority of it is things we grow and things that we buy right here in Clark County. So it helps everyone," John said.

He is certainly happy to give back to the community that has supported the market, and the Hendricks family farm over the years.

"I just can't say enough about the community. That's what makes small businesses successful," John said.

The Hendrickses consider themselves a family operation. The land provided their sons with summer employment during college, and they are the fourth generation to farm the land. John said he hopes to see the family business thriving well into the future.

"We feel real good about the future of the business. We've had a lot of support from the community, and that's been important."

The market is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. It is located on Old Boonesboro Road, across from Forest Grove Christian Church.

"We've found it to be a business that we enjoy," John said.

Contact Rachel Parsons at [rparsons@winchestersun.com](mailto:rparsons@winchestersun.com).

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