

Lewes Farmers Market awards eight scholarships to local farmers

Jan 20, 2015

The Historic Lewes Farmers Market recently announced it has awarded eight scholarships to Delmarva farmers. This year, HLFM received more applications than ever before from farmers dedicated to sustainable farming methods. Each scholarship provides \$500 to enable farmers to attend conferences devoted to sustainable agriculture.

The HLFM provides these scholarships to further its mission of promoting and strengthening sustainable farming through education and public outreach. Individual donors have again generously stepped forward to contribute to the HLFM scholarship fund.

Anyone interested in contributing can email historiclewesfarmersmarket@comcast.net or call 302-644-1436.

Three recipients will attend the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture Farming for the Future Conference Feb. 3 to 7 in State College, Pa. PASA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the economic viability and environmental soundness of local food and agricultural systems. PASA assists working farmers concerned with the ecological well-being of the environment and natural resources.

One scholarship recipient will attend the Mid Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey, Pa., Jan. 27 to 29. The convention has been jointly sponsored by the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, the Maryland State Horticultural Society, and the New Jersey State Horticultural Society for the past 36 years.

One scholarship recipient has already attended the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Savannah, Ga. It is the largest educational conference and trade show in the southeastern United States that unites growers, vendors and suppliers. Attendees participate in more than 80 hours of educational sessions on food safety concerns, specific commodity issues on production practices and increased yields, and marketing strategies.

One recipient will attend the Northeast Organic Farming Association Annual Organic and Farming Conference in Sarasota Springs, N.Y., Jan. 23-25. NOFA advocates a sustainable, local, organic food and farm system.

Two recipients attended the Future Harvest Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture Conference in College Park, Md. Future Harvest CASA's mission is to provide education, networking, and advocacy to help build a sustainable Chesapeake foodshed, where food flows from farm and fishery to table in ways that strengthen farming and the regional food economy; protect land, water, and air; and provide healthy, nutritious food that sustains the region's communities and cities.

The 2015 recipients of the HLFM scholarships are: The Bennett family, Bennett Orchards; Lisa Garfield, Calliope Farm; **Adrienne Spencer, The Delaware Center for Horticulture's 12th & Brandywine Urban Farm;** Karen Abbott, Fifer Orchards; Beth Eisenhour and Kathleen Moss, Mossflower Cottage Vegetable Farm; Bruce Pape, Deep Grass Organic; and Debbie Schaefer, Into the Soil Farm.

More information about the market is available at www.historiclewesfarmersmarket.org and on Facebook.

