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Website offers database of farms, wineries

TRENTON — A new website, www.visitnjfarms.org, makes it easy to find farms and wineries throughout the state, and learn what and when fruits and vegetables are available.

A graph on the site shows the fresh produce season starting in May, with asparagus and strawberries. Fruits and vegetables are ripe for picking or purchasing all summer long. Fall adds to the offerings with pumpkin picking, hayrides and corn mazes.

Winter holiday fare includes cut-your-own Christmas trees, farm-made wreaths and decorations.

Wine from New Jersey's 48 wineries is a year-round option.

The site is loaded concisely with all the information one could want for visiting an on-farm market, pick-your-own farm or winery.

The simple navigation shows a map of farms by county, and what each farm has for sale. It also lists special events through the end of the year, and provides several informational videos.

"By visiting a farm market, tailgate market, CSA, local winery or community farmers' market, you learn where your food comes from and how it's grown, as well as supporting agriculture and keeping farming a viable way of life in the Garden State," said John Hauser, president, New Jersey Farmers' Direct Marketing Association. "www.visitnjfarms.org is designed to make it very easy to find a farm."

The website's top banner lists "Find Farms," "Events," "What's in Season" and "News."

Clicking on "Find Farms" takes the user to a map of farms throughout the state, with tabs titled "Activities," "Pick Your Own," "Farm Products," "Facilities," "Services" and "Special Events."

Searching by a key word or putting a check mark next to a key word within any of the tabs, takes you to an icon on the map.

Clicking the icon of choice displays the name of a farm in the right column. Clicking the farm name gives a complete description of that farm's offerings, with directions for getting there.

The "Events" tab shows a calendar of special events and activities on specific farms until the end of the year. "What's in Season" is a graph of fruits and vegetables and their seasons of harvest. "News" is a variety of useful information and videos.

A printed brochure is available via the New Jersey Farm Bureau's website www.njfb.org.



Old-fashioned work ethic thriving at Ann's Market
Photo by Steve Koeppen

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