

PRESS RELEASE

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CALLING ALL HOME GARDENERS TO DUTCHESS FAIR

Rhinebeck, NY.... The perks of growing your own vegetables at home are pretty self evident. When your harvest is ready you can just step outside your door, head to your vegetable patch and serve home - grown, luscious vegetables to your family the same day you picked them. While the rewards of eating your own hard won efforts are great, you may be missing one other reward.....a ribbon for all your efforts at the 2014 Dutchess County Fair Vegetable Competition. The Dutchess County Fair opens for its six-day run on August 19.

In order to qualify for the Vegetable Competition, all the vegetables must be grown in Dutchess County. They will be judged for uniformity and table quality and the collections will also will be judged for creativity and “eye appeal”. Pumpkins, winter squash and watermelons will also be judged for size. The entries close on August 15, and the vegetables must be brought to the Fair on Sunday, August 17 between 6pm and 9pm Judging takes place in the beginning of the week.

Roger Hoffman, one of the Chairmen of the Vegetable Competition (along with Michael Baden) and a long time growing expert, has offered some advice for the home gardener. “The key to successful gardening is observation and daily diligence”, said Hoffman. “Plan your plant varieties according to light exposure, height and necessary spacing. Weeding, watering and control of insects, rodents and disease must be tended to YESTERDAY. By the time TODAY and TOMORROW arrive it is already too late.”

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Hoffman went on to advise, “Have a plan ready in advance for the outlet of your produce. Extra can be sold, traded or gifted to avoid loss due to spoilage. Enjoy the fruits of your labor! Enter the Dutchess County Fair Vegetable Competition to win prizes. It is rewarding and great fun”.

The Vegetable Exhibit is on display every day of the Fair in the 'Salute to Agriculture' tent. For more information on entering this year's show go to www.dutchessfair.com or call 845-876-4000 for more information.