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# Farmer's Market brings rural traditions to city

BY JENNIFER WALKER  
Summer Co-editor

For the past 12 years, people have flocked by the 1000s to the Haymarket every Saturday from mid-May to mid-October

The Farmer's Market, located on 7<sup>th</sup> street between P and Q streets, hosts 110 Nebraska vendors, who sell everything from vegetables to exotic flowers to goat cheese to kittens.

According to Billene Nemec, Haymarket

manager, Lincoln residents come to the Haymarket for more than just the food.

"The Market is like a small-town community," she said. "It's getting back to your roots."

"People come to remember their grandma's vegetable gardens."

Vendors drive 250 to 300 miles to sell their products, Nemec said.

The Farmer's Market benefits the vendors in ways that do more than bolster their pocket-books.

"It gives the growers an opportunity to diversify," Nemec said. "They can get away from growing the same old corn and beans."

Jerry Meyer has sold vegetables at the Farmer's Market for 10 years. He travels from Beatrice, where he grows mostly chili peppers, tomatoes and lettuce. His produce is grown organically, which he thinks makes him unique.

"I believe in no chemical growing," he said.

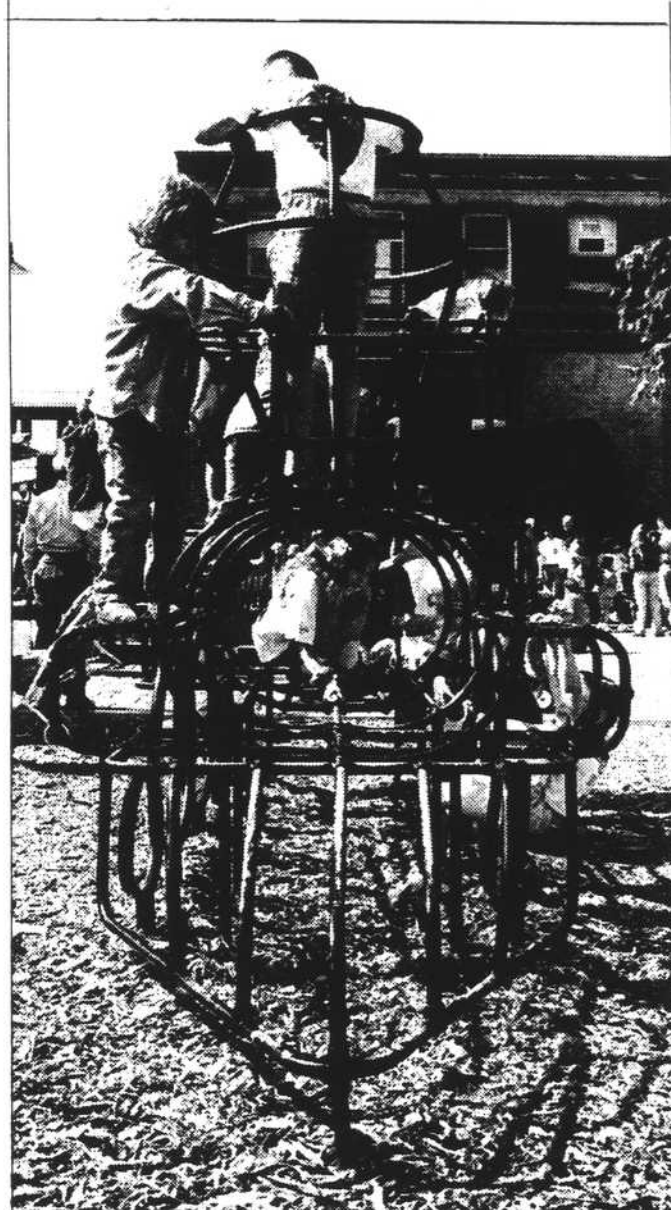
Gene and Cynthia Karstens, from Prague, said they like selling their vegetables, but they enjoyed the crowds the Farmer's Market attracted more.

"We meet a lot of nice people down here," Jerry Karstens said, "It's a good business to be in."

Leasha Benolken, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student, said she came to the Farmer's Market to enjoy the weather, not to buy anything.

"This is my first time (at the Farmer's Market) and I don't plan on buying anything," she said, "but I did see some kittens that were awfully cute."

Although many vendors sell vegetables,



CHILDREN PLAY on the engine jungle gym in the Haymarket Saturday morning during the Farmer's Market.

## On the Cover

NIKKI FOX / DN

THE FATHER AND SON TEAM of George (left) and Jay Edgar help a customer at the Farmer's Market in the Haymarket Saturday morning. Jay Edgar runs a plant nursery in Prairie Home called Landesign Limited. The family has been attending the market for the past 10 years.

Daily  
Nebraskan  
Summer Edition

http://www.unl.edu/DailyNeb/Fax Number 472-1761

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL publication Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-2588 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publication Board. For information, Contact Travis Brandt, 472-2588.

Subscription price is \$55 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, P.O. Box 880448, Lincoln, NE 68688-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE

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