

Siemanowicz Farm Stand



The newest sprout on the farm was one-week-old Ayden Matthew Peter Campbell, son of Kim Campbell and grandson of John Siemanowicz (l) and his wife Marsha (r). Although clearly not up to pickin' peas yet, Ayden will have ample opportunity to keep the weeds down on Grampa's farm.

Staff photo and caption: Heather Makechnie

By Heather Makechnie
Beacon volunteer

Amongst the cabbages and carrots and corn at John Siemanowicz's vegetable stand in East Andover, the camera caught a different kind of sprout. Right there, between the potatoes and peppers was one-week old Ayden Matthew Peter Campbell, John's grandson. Ayden had just arrived home from the hospital where he was born and has already had his first photo op!

"Grampa" John Siemanowicz has taken off two months from his job as a precious metals refiner to sell his garden produce from a pop-up shelter at the end of his driveway. He and his father ("Great Grampa" John Siemanowicz) have 3.5 acres under cultivation, with plans to fully develop their 11.5-acre parcel.

"We have planted 1,200 Christmas trees, 100 red raspberries, and 120 blueberries," says John proudly. We are working with the Zoning Board for a permit to build a permanent garden stand and some greenhouses. We would very much like to sell local kitchen crafters' products like breads, jams, and gift baskets when the business expands and hope our farm will provide fresh produce from spring through late fall."

So far this season the acres have produced peas, green, wax and purple beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, giant cabbages, zucchini, yellow squash, and carrots. There are winter, acorn, and butternut squash aplenty ripening on the vines, as well as cantaloupes, pumpkins, and gourds, oh my!

They also sell potatoes and corn from McQuesten Farm in Litchfield. "I grew up eating that corn," says John,

"and there just isn't any that is better. It's 90 miles round-trip for me every day to pick it up fresh, but well worth it because so many people come back to me and say it is out of this world. Word of mouth is doing my business for me."

"This fall we will sell mums and cornstalks and then Christmas trees starting in November. Next year we will add annual flowers and herbs, scallions, and garlic to our offerings."

The stand is open seven days a week from early morning until 6 PM. Look for a sandwich board sign at the end of Applecrest Lane (across the road from Highland Lake.)

John Siemanowicz can be reached at 848-3502, or at jnm03405@yahoo.com.



Florence Gove (seen here at the 2008 fair) helped keep the crowd fed again this year. Photo: Beryl Sanborn

A Beautiful Day For This Year's Old Time Fair

By Nancy Tripp
Andover Historical Society

I got there about 8:15 in the morning, and she was already setting up her station. There was a card table covered with a tablecloth, a couple of metal pans, paper towels, tape, and kitchen utensils all with mailing labels attached so they would wind up back in her possession. She fired up her grill to find a high flame that could not be controlled. No bother. She would work around it, although it looked worrisome to the rest of us.

There were no holders, but she had figured out a way to fold and cut paper plates to serve the purpose well. After a quick lesson, I started making the holders and thought I had found a short-cut to reduce the amount of cutting. She inspected my work and corrected it. Of course, she was right.

I worked alongside her from 8:30 until 2:30. She never sat down, never complained, never lost her stride. Nothing was burned unless the customer requested it that way. Not one was dropped (thanks to the paper plate holder design); no one waited more than a few seconds

after placing their order to bite down on a delicious hot dog. This was a grand performance by a remarkable woman, Florence Gove. Age: 88.

Since I was otherwise engaged trying to keep up with the cheeseburger orders (my apologies to anyone who had to wait a few minutes), I didn't get around to much else that was going on at the fair. However, I did notice a lot of happy faces, heard lots of laughter, and saw people carting away treasures from the flea market and auction. I can assume a good time was had by all.

The music by NewFound Grass that wafted towards the food tent sounded terrific, and the band kept a rapt audience during their entire set.

The Cotton Valley Rail Trail Club members fired up their motorized train buggies, and it looked as if the kids and their grown-ups were having a great time riding down the tracks. Later in the day, the hand-pumped cart was attracting a lot of riders.

Across the way, the pies were selling fast (the blueberry pie I bought was delicious), as were the garden vegetables.

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