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Farmers, artisans sell on Saturdays in La Grange

By Andrea Uhde • auhde@courier-journal.com • May 19, 2010

Jon Bednarski grabbed a block of hay and called out to his cattle as they slowly moved toward him.

In the fenced-in area nearby, a group of steers stood in a row to watch.

Bednarski works on his Sherwood Acres farm every day, making sure his cattle are fed all the vitamins, clean water and grass, corn and soy they require to make the best meat.

In the summers, he takes the hamburger, beef bratwurst and other goods to the farmers market on the courthouse lawn in La Grange, just a mile or so from where he raises the cattle.

Bednarski will have as much company as ever at the market this year, with 38 other farmers and artisans signed up to sell their goods on Saturday mornings.

The market officially opened May 15, but the grand opening Saturday includes an antique tractor display and a sidewalk sale along Main Street.

“The farmers market was the perfect outlet for us,” said Bednarski, who started selling at the La Grange market five years ago and will sell at four markets this summer. “We created a customer base, and they would come back.”

The market in La Grange will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays through Oct. 30, except for June 5 and June 17, when other events are scheduled on the lawn, said market organizer Russ Morris.

Morris said the market has grown since last year, when it had 30 vendors.

“It could be the word's getting out, and they see how valuable the market is,” Morris said.

He said the economy also may be prompting people to sell their goods for extra income.

The La Grange farmers market typically lures anywhere from 150 to 500 people, but last year vendors said they saw a dip in sales because of the economy.

Bednarski, a member of the farmers market committee, said promotional days will be held this year to lure more shoppers, including a special day where Chamber of Commerce members get

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discounts.

“One of the challenges of being on a farmers market committee is to get people to the market,” Bednarski said.

All goods at the market are grown or made within a 60-mile radius of the city, and most vendors come from Oldham, Henry and Trimble counties and Carrollton, Morris said.

This year, goods will range from crochet items to home-grown mushrooms, he said.

“It's a great place to meet people, come down and relax,” Morris said.

Reporter Andrea Uhde can be reached at (502) 582-4663.

COVER PHOTO: Jon Bednarski greets Sheba, a cow on his Oldham County farm.

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Jon Bednarski greets Sheba, a cow on his Oldham farm. (By Matt Stone, The Courier-Journal) May 11, 2010

La Grange Farmers market

When: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 30, except June 5 and June 17

Where: Courthouse lawn, 100 W. Main St., La Grange

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