



# DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901

**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

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## **Delaware's pumpkin king crowned**

A Delaware pumpkin king for 2005 has been crowned! On Saturday, October 22, 2005, Ed Givens' 354.5 lb behemoth Atlantic Giant Pumpkin was named Delaware's Giant Pumpkin. "This is actually a small one for me," said Givens at the weighing at Winkler Farms in Harrington, DE. Givens said he's been growing giant pumpkins since 1988 and in 1992 he recorded a 632 lb pumpkin with the World Pumpkin Council.

Second place went to John Poe of Bridgeville with a 209.4 lb pumpkin, also an Atlantic Giant. Poe said he has grown Jack-O-Lantern pumpkins for three years but this is his first year with a giant pumpkin. "There's a lot that goes into it that I didn't know before I started," said Poe after his pumpkin was weighed. Poe talked with other growers about fertilizers used and other techniques. "I'll definitely try again next year," he said.

Third place in the Giant Pumpkin weigh off went to Zach Grunden of Harrington with a 108.6 lb pumpkin. Other entries were Chuck Hurd with a 97.1 pounder and Benjamin and Nicholas Sobota with 68.9 and 68.0 pound pumpkins respectively.

The winning giant pumpkin will be on display in the Dover Mall on Saturday, October 29, 2005 from 11am-4pm during the Muggy's Meadow on the Farm event in the JCPenny's court.

According to Amanda Brown, DDA Agricultural Products Marketing Specialist, "Giant Pumpkin weighing began officially in Delaware in 2004 when Mark Galipo brought a 420 lb pumpkin to the Department of Agriculture. This (2005) is the first year in Delaware that multiple pumpkins were weighed in a contest format. We plan to make the Giant Pumpkin Festival an annual Delaware Agritourism event."

Electronic copies of pictures are available from [anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us](mailto:anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us).

### **Official Weigh-In Results**

Entry #	Name		Weight
1	Darren Sobota	Milford DE	49.8 lbs
2	Benjamin Sobota	Milford DE	68.9 lbs
3	Nicholas Sobota	Milford DE	68.0 lbs
4	Ed Givens	Georgetown, DE	354.5 lbs
5	Chuck Hurd	Harrington, DE	97.1 lbs
6	John Poe	Bridgeville, DE	209.4 lbs
7	Zach Grunden	Harrington, DE	108.6 lbs

###



**Winner:**  
*Left to right:*  
**Ed Givens, Sean Clougherty**



**Second place:**  
**John Poe**