

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors



For Immediate Release:
Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010

Contact: Kelli Steele
800.282.8685 (DE only)
302.698.4519

Number of pages: 1



Congratulations to Historic Lewes & Rehoboth Beach Farmers' Markets'

Dover-Two of Delaware's 14 farmers' markets have been ranked in the Top 20, for a second year, in "America's Favorite Farmers' Market Contest" sponsored by the American Farmland Trust.

"Congratulations to the Historic Lewes Farmers' Market and the Rehoboth Beach Farmers' Market for once again placing in the top 20 of all farmers markets in the national contest," said Agriculture Secretary Ed Kee. "It is a great reflection on each market's management team and staff, the growers and on Delaware agriculture. All of us at the Department of Agriculture are proud of their achievement and we support all of Delaware's farmers' markets."

Lewes placed 2nd (last year the market was 4th) in the medium-sized market category and Rehoboth placed 11th (last year the market was 20th) in that same category. **See results at/click on Medium Market tab:**

http://action.farmland.org/site/PageServer?pagename=top_20_americas_favorite_farmers_markets

Lewes received 2,387 votes and Rehoboth received 629 votes.

"We at the Historic Lewes Farmers Market are thrilled that we achieved second place in the national America's Favorite Farmers' Market Contest," said Historic Lewis Farmers' Market President Helaine Harris. "It demonstrates a firm commitment from people in Delaware to support a market where they are able to purchase fresh, local produce and to support the growth of sustainable agriculture in this state."

"The Rehoboth Beach Farmers' Market is extremely pleased to have been voted one of the Top 20 markets in the U.S.," said Rehoboth Market Manager Pat Coluzzi. "For the past four years, we have had wonderful support from the locals and it has been extremely gratifying to hear from many tourists from all over the country tell us that we have the best market they have ever attended! We think that is pretty darn good for a Tuesday market!"

Voters had several weeks, starting in June, to vote for their favorite market in one of three categories: small, medium and large. Markets were categorized by the number of participating vendors. A small market has 30 vendors or less; medium markets have 31 to 55 vendors; and large markets have more than 55 vendors. More than 800 markets signed up to participate in the contest. More than 1,200 farmers' markets across the country enrolled in this year's contest and more than 50,000 people cast their votes in the contest.

American Farmland Trust, based in Washington, D.C., is a 30-year-old organization that seeks to preserve farm and ranch land from development and promote environmentally sound farming practices. The Trust said it sponsored the contest to call attention to the importance of farmers who are responsible for producing "fresh, healthy and local food."