



Vendor Spotlight June 16, 2017

Howard County Farmers' Market

Charles Wright



My name is Charles Wright. I was born April 17, 1935, grew up on a farm in Lockesburg and have enjoyed farming all my life. I worked in the peach industry when it was going strong in Nashville. I remember Fair & Sons, also Murray Orchards. I worked in the field, picking and hauling peaches and also in the shed, grading peaches. In 1967 I moved to Nashville and in 1968 I started working at the Okay Cement Plant and retired in 1993.

My wife is the former Vivian Hickerson. She was born May 1, 1941 and grew up in Nashville. We met at church and have six children between us by previous marriages, and ten grandchildren.

I got involved with the Farmers' Market partly because my wife works for the Vista program where she met a Board member from the Market. That person then got in contact with me and talked me into bringing produce to the Market. I've always raised a big garden. The products I bring to the market are tomatoes, okra, beans, potatoes, squash, peas and blackberries. I have several "little" gardens around my place so that each one has a small variety of vegetables and fruits. I keep my garden clean of grass and use different ways to support produce that needs to be kept off the ground, such as tomatoes & blackberries. My rows are wide, so there is plenty of walking space. I use drip irrigation which saves a lot of back ache, and so I don't have to worry if we don't get enough rain. Lots of people driving by just stop to look at my garden.

I hope to see more vendors and more customers at the market in the future. I wish younger people would get interested - not only in farming, but in getting healthy and stop eating out of those paper sacks from McDonald's! My interests are church, gardening and reading. I read a lot - the newspaper, news magazines such as Time, and gardening magazines such as The Front Porch and Birds & Blossoms. I'm also a member of the Farm Bureau.

Through the years, by trial and error, I've learned when to plant things. I don't go by the moon or other suggestions. I just know the best time. My advice to anyone who wants to grow a garden is just dig in and start learning. Don't let the grass get too tall - Keep the soil tilled all year and you won't have any grass. If you don't have a tiller, use a hoe and your hands. As soon as that grass pokes through, get rid of it!