

Meet the Farmers: Dale Haas Owner, Haas Farms Red Creek, N.Y.



Dale Haas shows off his sunny spread at the Downtown Farmers Market

Dale Haas owns Haas Farms, located in Red Creek in Wayne County. A second generation farmer, he now works the fields with his wife and their four children. Dale has been making the 45-minute commute from his farm to Clinton Square to participate in the Downtown Farmers Market for more than 20 years.

“I’ve been here since the early 1990s,” he says. “I like the people, and I like to sell them nice, exotic things.”

Dale’s main goal is to please his customers, meeting their special requests as best he can.

Last season, a woman living with diabetes asked Dale to grow Jerusalem Artichokes for her. Some health experts say Jerusalem Artichokes decrease the need for medicinal insulin. When he brought the Artichokes to the Downtown Farmers Market for her last fall, she was delighted.

Then, there are the regular customers. Dale lights up when he talks about all of them.

“I have one man who buys peas every single week,” Dale smiles. “It’s like a big family. You see their faces, and sometimes you get to learn their names.”

Dale says Haas Farms may be best known for snow peas and snap peas, which are available through July and sometimes into August. Market visitors will also find string beans, summer squash, tomatoes, beets, swiss chard, berries, grapes, sunflowers and much more as the season continues.

Dale starts plowing in April, fitting the fields to plant the seeds for peas. Then about a month later, it’s time to plant the tomato and pepper plants, once the last frost of the season passes.

Dale says peas pop up pretty faithfully, unless there is too much water – a struggle some of his farming counterparts have experienced with the rain this spring. Fortunately, the Haas fields are on a hill, so they stayed relatively dry this season.

If you’re in the mood for a unique treat, Haas Farms also grows its own popping corn.

“I have yellow, white, red and black kernels,” Dale says, describing the available choices. “But, they all pop up the same color!”

Be sure to say hello to Dale at the Downtown Farmers Market every Tuesday.

