

Meet the Farmers: Linda Hahn

Owner, Hahn Farms

Baldwinsville, N.Y.



A Family Affair: Linda Hahn, with daughter Jessica (far left), and granddaughter, Emily

Hahn Farms has been family-owned and operated by Linda Hahn's family since the mid-1930s. The farm sprawls across 250 acres in Baldwinsville, though the Hahn family only needs about an eighth of that space – 30 acres – to grow the produce you've come to expect at their Downtown Farmers Market booth today.

"Years ago, my husband's family and brothers used to farm 300 acres of field corn and 100 acres of vegetables," Owner Linda Hahn says.

"It's all family, it's a lot of fun," she says. Just five people – including Linda – manage the fields and greenhouse, from spring to summer, through fall and winter. "There's myself, my son, his girlfriend, my daughter, and my step-son."

They do take January off, which Linda is grateful for ("It's good because I love basketball; I can watch the games every Saturday!"), but the Hahns get right back to work, resuming heating their greenhouse in February.

Hanging baskets, flowers, and some vegetables are among the first things they'll bring to The Market. By the end of June, they'll start to bring garlic, zucchini, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and soon after, watermelon.

Linda says tomatoes and garlic are some of her best sellers. She says customers also ask for kusa, a type of summer squash she likens to zucchini. "It has a little bit of a sweeter flavor," she says. "Anything you can do with a zucchini, you can do with kusa."

Faithful Downtown Farmers Market participants for over 30 years, the Hahns say their favorite part about The Market is seeing the customers, and getting to know the regulars.

Linda says the variety each day brings – and getting to be outside every day – are also highlights.

"It takes a lot of money to keep the farm going every year, but it's a very rewarding job, and it's fun watching things grow," Linda says. "And to be able to give the people the fresh vegetables – they like knowing where it comes from."

For more information about the Hahn Family, and to get their seasonal schedule, you may friend "Hahn Farms" on Facebook.



Kusa, a popular request at the Hahn Farms Booth



Be sure to say hello to Linda and the Hahn Farms crew at the Downtown Farmers Market, every Tuesday.