



Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Market

5.11.20

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Derryhomegrown.org

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Opening Delayed and Season in Doubt**

**Derry, New Hampshire:** It is with a heavy heart that we are announcing that the opening of the 4th season of the Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Market will not take place as scheduled on June 3rd. Equally distressing is that at this point we do not know when, or if, we will open for the 2020 season. We have decided as a Board that it will not be before July at the earliest and the possibility exists that it may not happen at all.

The safety and health of vendors, volunteers, market patrons and the community at large **MUST** be our first priority, even if that means not having a Market. While there are other markets in the region pressing forward, so many of the things that make our market unique are proving to make for immense challenges as we try to adapt to a “new normal”. First and foremost is that Derry has been and continues to be a “hot spot” for Covid-19 cases. As of a week ago we had 143 known active cases in Derry alone. Our Market location in the heart of a bustling downtown of 34,000 people and next to the Derry Rail Trail also presents distancing challenges. Unlike other markets that are in parking lots/pavement, being on grass does not make it easy to mark out 6 foot spaces for waiting lines. And finally, with our average market attendance last year running between 700 and 750 people, putting that many people or more in a fairly confined space over the course of four hours is a significant concern.

While we cannot say that we are overly hopeful, we continue to look, listen and explore options such as an alternate location that might better suit today’s circumstances. This is not an easy decision for anyone on our Board. The entire Board and volunteers have poured their heart and soul into this Market for 3 years and frankly, have enjoyed every minute of it and have been immensely grateful for the support the community has shown. We are so disheartened at the prospect of not holding a market this season and our hearts break for both vendors and the community should that be the final decision.



We will continue to talk with other markets as well as watching conditions on the ground locally in the coming weeks. At this point we hope to make a final determination on the season sometime after Memorial Day. However, barring some extraordinary circumstances, it is not looking good.

With the recent news of disruptions to the food supply chain, this decision is all the more difficult. Whatever happens, we will be doing whatever we can to support our vendors and we will be vocal advocates for the many advantages of supporting local farmers and sourcing more of your food locally.

#### **About Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Market:**

Derry Homegrown Farm and Artisan Market is run by a volunteer Board of Directors, is registered with the NH Dept. of Agriculture and the NH Secretary of State's office and is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. It has been organizing and operating the Market at 1 W. Broadway since 2017

#### **Our Mission:**

Derry Homegrown's mission is to provide local farmers and growers, artisanal bakers, gourmets and craftspeople with a long term sustainable marketplace for Derry and surrounding communities. We intend to create a vibrant marketplace where the community can purchase locally grown produce, locally raised meats, eggs and poultry, organic and grass fed dairy options, and the highest quality prepared foods and baked goods along with quality handcrafted items from local artisans. We will also strive to educate the community on the many benefits of eating and buying locally.

#### **For more info, contact Derry Homegrown at:**

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