



Rampha Miller picks out vegetables at the last downtown farmer's market of the season in Fairfield, Thursday. (Aaron Rosenblatt/Daily Republic)

Farmers market ends season with an animal flourish

By [Ryan McCarthy From page A1](#) | Daily Republic | October 09, 2015

FAIRFIELD — The farmers market finished the season Thursday with Milk-Bones and other prizes for winners in the pet costume contest – with awards for most adorable, most original and “scariest” – to keep with a Halloween theme.

A canine demonstration by the Fairfield Police Department preceded the costume contest.

The final market of the year, said Margaret Manzo, executive director of the Fairfield Main Street Association, is a bon voyage for pet lovers.

“We make it all about the animals,” Manzo said.

The farmers market that began April 30 returns next year to the corner of Jefferson and Texas streets in downtown Fairfield.

Dennis Sullivan, 66, a retired Solano County worker, praised the market as a chance for people to get together – an opportunity that he wishes was more frequent in Fairfield.

“It’s common ground,” said Sullivan, who said he would like to see the market take place year-round.

Attendance at the event this year, said Manzo, probably doubled.

“We’re really happy,” she said.

Manzo said a year-round market is under review.

Vallejo runs all year, she noted, but one of the challenges is that the California-grown produce sold at the farmers market is more limited in the winter.

Angelina Vang, of Fresno-based Veggielicious, said markets – which include Redwood City in Silicon Valley – that the produce provider goes to in California are mostly the same but the customers are different.

“They’re nice,” she said of people in Fairfield.

That reflects more print and broadcast promotion for the market, Manzo said.

Vacaville holds a farmers market on Saturday mornings. The event from 3-7 p.m. Thursdays in Fairfield assumes its own ambience.

“It’s kind of a different vibe,” Manzo said.

She’d like to add another day – likely Sunday – to the farmers market in Fairfield. That addition may happen in 2017 at a different location.

Fairfield city staff received free bags of Kettle Corn at the finale Thursday.

Yolanda Ramirez, administrative assistant for the Fairfield Main Street Association, said she gets used to seeing the growers, vendors and customers at the event.

“You look forward to seeing everybody,” Ramirez said. “I am going to miss that.”

Still, she added, “It’ll happen again next year.”

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