

Welcome Back!

“Welcome back, your dreams were your ticket out. Welcome back to that same old place that you laughed about. Well the names have all changed since you hung around, but those dreams have remained and they’re turned around. Who’d have thought they’d lead ya (Who’d have thought they’d lead ya) Back here where we need ya (Here where we need ya) Yeah we tease him a lot cause we’ve got him on the spot, Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back, welcome back”.

Okay, for those that are ... well younger, you are asking... “WHAT???”... But for those my age or older you will recognize the above song from Welcome back Kotter – a 70 something TV show.... I have been singing this song for weeks in anticipation to the opening day of Market, so whole-heartedly I say... Welcome back!

I told myself, after the end of the 07 market season, that I wouldn’t... in 08, talk about how amazing people are, I would just stick to the facts, but as I have had a whole year to travel around and get to know some of our vendors better; as well as other farm people in our state I have discovered, “well those are the facts”. There is something so wonderful in being around people that are creating and living there dreams even when they are changing irrigation pipe, or mucking the stalls, milking the cow or goat, or slaving over the hot oven. These people are simply “joy-filled” and it is so contagious.

I have been blessed to take farm walks and sit in on Washington Farmers Market Convention, and Ag tourism events, this winter and each time I walk away I am totally AMAZED... (Hold on to your garden hat, for those of you that will be counting this is one.....), at how brilliant people are!

I am not alone in this as I am lucky to get my “hands dirty” with a group of the most proactive people I know; whether they be vendors or market board members or volunteers – and we thought, **“How great would it be if everyone could take these tours?”**, and as fun as that would be we thought maybe we would start by simply bringing some of these learning opportunities to you via the market. Every week this season we will have a highlighted vendor – (some you will know from our local market... some you won’t as some are coming in especially to offer a widened experience to you, the attendee. It is our hope that you won’t miss a week.

We have made it a little easier for you to anticipate and to plan ahead. You will find a schedule on our updated web site @ www.prosserfarmersmarket.com . You will also find a place to sign up for our newsletter this season it packed full and you won’t want to miss a thing. Once you have visited this site and noticed the many updates and changes, we hope you will take the time to thank Sharon Crosby for the amazing job she has done with it. We will also continue to highlight the upcoming week in the local paper – so watch for our market column.

I wish you could have been a fly on the wall this winter as we met and planned this market season, so that you could know first hand the excitement we feel. All of us had such a great season last year, we had more fun than any group of people should have perhaps, certainly we laughed, played and worked hard. We got to know so many of you much better and have learned from you as well. So when we say welcome back. Know that we mean it from our hearts. We have spent the last 6 months preparing for your return... “Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back”...