



County fair to promote growth with giveaway

[BILL GAMBLIN](#)

2010-03-30 12:27:42



The Santa Rosa County Fair is looking to grow and promote growth at the same time.

On April 1, no joking, 1,000 visitors to the fair will receive free seed packs through a partnership between Panhandle Fresh Marketing, Manning's Feed and Seed, and the Santa Rosa County Fair Board.

Based in Santa Rosa County, Panhandle Fresh Marketing Association encourages local growers along the Panhandle to produce high quality, locally grown vegetables and fruits to serve the needs of area residents by supplying some of the local grocery stores.

Annually the Santa Rosa County Fair celebrates the last frost and the arrival of the planting season each year at the Fairgrounds in East Milton.

"This year with the high fuel costs and rising food costs we wanted to encourage our guests to support agriculture and themselves by reconsidering the age old tradition of planting every spring," said Rick Paschall, member of the Santa Rosa County Fair board.

Seed packs will contain a variety of southern vegetable seeds for guests, which will be put together by Manning's Feed and Seed.

"We are happy to co-promote local suppliers of seed, and the Fair as we work to develop a broad base of suppliers of high quality, locally grown produce for our area," said Andrea Sutrick,

Panhandle Fresh's main goal though the promotion is to share their logo with area residents while encouraging them to both grow and buy locally grown produce.

With the prospect of developing an 'AGRI-PLEX' in East Milton on the property the fair board has been working with the Santa Rosa County Commissioners on making this project an even bigger priority to get the word out in the current economic environment.

"It makes all the sense in the world that our community would work together to encourage the development of this type of business," said Andy Bell, proprietor of Manning's Feed and Seed. "I am particularly excited about the Fair's plan to help develop the 'AGRI-PLEX' in East Milton."

Currently the Santa Rosa County Fair Association is working on developing collaborative agreements with the University of Florida, the Santa Rosa County Tourist Development Council, as well as TEAM Santa Rosa's Agribusiness Committee to develop a multi-use agriculture complex in the northern end of East Milton's Park.

The Santa Rosa County Fair will open at 3 p.m. daily and at noon this Saturday and Sunday.

For more information on Panhandle Fresh Marketing Association, visit www.panhandlefresh.com.

© Copyright 2010 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)