



Media Release

Media Contact:
Steven Knudsen
Legislative Assistant /Outreach Coordinator
San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau
Phone: 805/543-3654
Steven@slofarmbureau.org

Release Immediately

The First Annual Great Pumpkin Contest

This year, great big orange giants from all over the county will take over Chorro Street for one night as local growers compete to see who can grow the heaviest giant pumpkin. The San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, in partnership with Coast National Bank, Farm Supply and other sponsors, has created the First Annual Great Pumpkin Contest to see which grower can tip the scale with the heaviest pumpkin in the county.

The contest will be held during the San Luis Obispo Downtown Association's Thursday Night Farmers' Market, between 6:30 and 8 p.m. on October 19, on Chorro Street. Giant pumpkins can grow between 200 and 1,400 pounds, with the world record pumpkin weighing in at 1,443 pounds. These pumpkins are guaranteed to be large enough that they will make event the largest back yard variety look like a pea.

Prizes will be awarded for several categories: most beautiful, most unusual and heaviest. The heaviest pumpkin will roll home with an award of \$500 from Coast National Bank. A special prize will be awarded to the heaviest pumpkin grown by a junior pumpkin grower under 12 years old. Officials from the San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures will be on hand to certify the results of the weigh-off, while local celebrity judges will award prizes in the most beautiful and most unusual categories.

During May and June, the Farm Bureau and Farm Supply seeded the contest by donating enough seeds and sprouts to grow approximately 7,000 pumpkin plants. More than 2,000 packets of seeds and flyers, donated by Farm Supply, were distributed to K-6 grade students in San Luis Obispo. Local giant pumpkin grower, Paul Rys, also donated 1,500 seeds from his personal collection that were then sprouted in the Talley Vegetables' seed chamber in Arroyo Grande and distributed at local community events.

If you have a giant growing in your backyard and are interested in entering it in the contest contact the Farm Bureau office for more information. Entry forms are available at www.slofarmbureau.org and at the Farm Bureau office in San Luis Obispo. Registration deadline for the event is October 13. Even if you weren't able to grow a giant pumpkin this year, we encourage you to come down and see the giants and the rest of Paul Rys' Pumpkins on Parade.

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Mission Statement:

"To lead San Luis Obispo County in the protection, promotion and advocacy for the benefit of our members and community"