

CSA Open House Showcases Local Farms

Every year in late February or early March, farmers who offer community supported agriculture (CSA) programs gather in the activity barn at Wheeler Farm for one evening to meet consumers who are interested buying local food and directly supporting local farms. The Utah's Own program and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food are among the sponsors.

This year's event was held March 4th. About 100 residents came to talk to the 13 farms that had tables and representatives to discuss their programs. If you missed it,

don't fear, CSA Utah organizers say that the open house really marks the beginning of CSA sign up season, not the end.

"We haven't signed anybody up yet," said Kelby Johnson, of



Marty Alston, Urban farm and Feed talks to consumers about his farm and what they grow.

Mary Alston, Urban Farm and Feed. Alston farms in Salt

Lake County and has several convenient pick up locations.

CSA is basically a weekly farm product subscription. People purchase shares of the harvest. In return, the consumer gets a bag, box or basket of farm fresh food,



David Chen, Zoe's Garden, in Davis County, sits but keeps talking after a couple of hours of informing people about his farm and CSA offerings.

Johnson Family Farms in

Cache County. "We hope to start signing people up this week." Though the Johnsons farm in the Logan area, they have a pick up location at the Downtown Salt Lake City Farmers Market.

"We didn't sign anybody up tonight, but we got a lot

of leads," said



Spinning the Utah's Own Wheel of Prizes was a fun part of the evening for many attending the open house. Our intern, Katy was having fun too.

usually mostly produce. Some farms deliver to your door. Others deliver to central pickup locations designed to be convenient to urban residents. Sometimes the farm is one of those locations.

Just like each farm is somewhat different, so too are their CSA offerings. Some farms, like Backyard Urban Garden (BUG) Farms in Salt Lake City, offer several add on items from other farms and food artisans at an additional cost. Tagges' Famous Fruits and Vegetables from Box Elder County make their own line of jams and preserves from their berries and tree fruit. A jar or two may occasionally make their way into your share if you go with them.

To learn more about all 29 CSA farms registered with CSA Utah, go to www.csautah.org. Click on the Find a CSA tab to read about each farm.