

Epic Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Weigh In and Ugliest Vegetable Contest Rules

Event Details:

- Date: October 4, 2025
- Location: Farmers Market Pavilion, Heritage Park, 115 Durham Drive, Maynardville, TN
- Event: Part of the Union County Heritage Festival and Union County Farmers Market
- Sponsor: Union Farmers Co-Op

Schedule:

- Pumpkin and Watermelon Weigh-In: Pumpkins and watermelons must arrive between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM.
- Winners Announced: 11:00 AM at the Heritage Festival.

Contest Categories:

- Giant Pumpkin Contest
- Giant Watermelon Contest
- Ugliest Vegetable Contest (for display only)

Rules for Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Contests:

- Eligibility:
 - Open to all community members—whether you're an experienced farmer or a gardening novice. No entry fee required.
 - Contestants must sign up by email (UnionFMKT@gmail.com). Registration forms are available at the Union County Co-Op and Union County Farmers Market.
- Produce Requirements:
 - Pumpkins and watermelons must be grown by the participant.
 - Entries must be healthy, free of rot, cracks, or significant damage.
 - Pumpkins must be true pumpkins (*Cucurbita* species, typically *Cucurbita maxima* or *pepo*).
 - Watermelons must be true watermelons (*Citrullus lanatus*).
 - No foreign materials (e.g., weights, fillers) may be added to the produce.
- Weigh-In Process:
 - Entries must be delivered to the Farmers Market Pavilion, 115 Durham Drive, Maynardville, TN between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM on October 4, 2025.
 - Participants are responsible for transporting their entries to the weigh-in area.
 - Entries will be weighed using certified scales provided by the event organizers.
 - Weight is recorded to the nearest pound. In case of a tie, the entry weighed first wins.
- Judging Criteria:

- Winners are determined solely by the weight of the pumpkin or watermelon.
- One prize per participant per category.
- Prizes:
 - First Place (Pumpkin): \$100 gift certificate to Union Farmers Co-Op
 - First Place (Watermelon): \$100 gift certificate to Union Farmers Co-Op
 - Second Place (Pumpkin): \$50 gift certificate to Union Farmers Co-Op
 - Second Place (Watermelon): \$50 gift certificate to Union Farmers Co-Op

Rules for Ugliest Vegetable Contest:

- Eligibility:
 - Open to all community members—whether you're an experienced farmer or a gardening novice. No entry fee required.
- Produce Requirements:
 - Any type of vegetable is eligible (e.g., potatoes, carrots, zucchini, etc.).
 - Vegetables should be naturally grown and not altered or carved to enhance ugliness.
 - Entries must be safe for public display (no rotting or hazardous materials).
- Submission Process:
 - Vegetables must be delivered to the Farmers Market Pavilion between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM on October 4, 2025.
 - Entries will be displayed during the Heritage Festival.
- Judging Criteria:
 - Judging is based on the vegetable's natural appearance, emphasizing unique, unusual, or "ugly" features.
 - Judging will be conducted by a panel selected by the event organizers.
- Prize:
 - Winner: Bragging rights (no monetary prize).

General Rules:

- Participants are responsible for removing their entries after the event unless otherwise arranged with organizers.
- The event organizers and Union Farmers Co-Op are not responsible for damage to or loss of entries.
- All participants must conduct themselves respectfully. Organizers reserve the right to disqualify any participant for unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Decisions by the judges and organizers are final.
- By participating, entrants agree to allow their names and photos of their entries to be used for promotional purposes by the Union County Heritage Festival and Union Farmers Co-Op.

For additional information, contact the Union County Farmers Market, UnionFMKT@gmail.com or Union Farmers Co-Op, 3035 Maynardville Highway, Maynardville, TN 37807.

Epic Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Weigh In Registration Form

Event Details:

- Date: October 4, 2025
- Location: Farmers Market Pavilion, Heritage Park, 115 Durham Drive, Maynardville, TN
- Weigh-In: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
- Winners Announced: 11:00 AM at the Union County Heritage Festival
- Sponsor: Union Farmers Co-Op

Participant Information:

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ ZIP: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Entry Information: Please check the contest(s) you are entering (select all that apply):

- Giant Pumpkin Contest
- Giant Watermelon Contest

By signing below, I agree to the following:

- I confirm that the pumpkin(s) and/or watermelon(s) I am entering were grown by me and meet the contest requirements (healthy, free of rot, cracks, or foreign materials).
- I have read and will abide by the rules of the Epic Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Weigh In.
- I understand that my pumpkin(s) and/or watermelon(s) must be delivered to the Farmers Market Pavilion between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM on October 4, 2025, for weigh-in.
- I am responsible for transporting and removing my entries after the event.

- I allow the Union County Heritage Festival and Union Farmers Co-Op to use my name and photos of my entries for promotional purposes.
- I understand that the organizers are not responsible for damage to or loss of my entries.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____
For Minors (Under 18): Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submission Instructions:

- Submit this completed form by September 20, 2025 to:
 - Email: UnionFMKT@gmail.com
 - Mail: Union County Farmers Market, 115 Durham Drive, Maynardville, TN 37807
 - In-Person: Union Farmers Co-Op, 3035 Maynardville Hwy, Maynardville, TN 37807

Contact Information:

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