

# Factions face off for control of farmers' market

BY DEVIN ROONEY  
STAFF WRITER

Rival factions vying for control of the Hillsborough Farmers Market are working with Orange County Cooperative Extension to mediate the conflict between the two groups of vendors.

Talks began after Beverly Blythe, market manager, filed a lawsuit against an incorporated group fighting to reorganize the farmers' market management.

Blythe is both the market manager and a vendor, which the incorporated group of vendors sees as a potential conflict of interest.

Jeffrey Goodrum, spokesman

for the group and owner of Seeing Stars Farm said he envisions an elected governance board, an independent market manager, a treasurer and an official set of bylaws.

He said these steps will bring a necessary financial and bureaucratic transparency to the market.

"I've never seen the financial reporting, no budget reports were ever given," he said.

"There are other markets like Hillsborough with a vendor that's a manager of the market, but that's the exception."

Blythe could not be reached for comment, but said in an August

interview that Goodrum's plan would create "a level of bureaucracy which may not be what is best for the market as a whole."

On Aug. 24 Blythe filed a cease and desist suit requesting that the incorporated group not use the name Hillsborough Farmers Market, and that the group stop making intentionally false statements.

The lawsuit came after both groups spoke at an Aug. 21 meeting of the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

The groups both were presenting plans for the market's re-opening in a site that's part of the

Orange County Justice Facility.

Goodrum said his group asked for clarification of the issue in a letter which was received by Blythe's lawyer on Aug. 31, requesting a clarification of allegations.

"As far as we were aware, we made no intentionally false statements," he said.

The law firm never replied to the incorporated group's letter.

But Goodrum said Blythe overreacted to the proposed changes.

"Even small groups have to have some kind of organization

and structure, and that's been fairly actively resisted for a number of years now in this market," he said.

Since the lawsuit, Goodrum said his group has made one more presentation to the county commissioners.

He said the issue is on hold because the market is moving into a new county facility.

The regulations for use of the newly dedicated market house must be established before commissioners can vote on the management of the farmers' market,

said Barry Jacobs, vice chairman of the board.

He said the board will take up the farmers' market issue again in October, after the regulations for the market house are decided this month.

Goodrum said that in the new location, and with better organization, the market could double or triple its customer base.

"The market could be far more vibrant and active than it is."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## Farmers eligible for federal aid

BY ROSE ANNA LAUDICINA  
STAFF WRITER

While Friday's rain let up just in time for Saturday's UNC football game, it stopped too soon for local farmers.

Because of the extreme lack of rain so far in September, farms in 85 counties throughout North Carolina, including Orange County, were declared disaster drought areas Friday.

That means farmers now have been declared eligible to apply for low-interest loans.

To receive this aid, farmers must first apply for bank loans and be rejected before they can apply for the federal low-interest loans, said Tommy McLamb, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency in North Carolina.

Once a farmer receives the low-interest loan, it can be used to help pay the bills and debt that the farmer incurs because of crop failure.

"(Chance of rain) doesn't look good for the next 14 to 18 days right now," said Brandon Locklear, a meteorologist at the National

Weather Service in Raleigh.

"Whatever we received from Friday's rain looks like all we will have for the month of September."

That news is detrimental to the farming population statewide, and particularly to the Orange County area, where crops already are failing, said Lamont Dale Dixon of the N.C. Farm Bureau.

"No matter how much rain we get from now to the end of the month, the crops are still ruined," Dixon said.

Soybean farmers' insurance companies already have come to local farmers' land and evaluated the crops, deeming most of them ruined by drought, Dixon said.

"The insurance people said that the bean will not mature, no matter how much rain they get. The farmers have been given the go-ahead to salvage what they can and chop the rest up to be used as hay for their animals," he said.

The average rainfall for the month of September is 4.26 inches for North Carolina, Locklear said.

This month Chapel Hill has

*"No matter how much rain we get ... the crops are still ruined."*

LAMONT DALE DIXON,  
N.C. FARM BUREAU

received about 1 inch of rain, most of which came from Friday's downpour, he said.

Because of the small effect that Friday's rainfall had on lake levels, the year-round water conservation requirements are still in effect. Further restrictions might be imposed on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community within the next month, said Greg Feller, Orange Water and Sewer Authority spokesman.

"As we transition to the fall we can start to see more and more strong cold fronts moving in which should bring more precipitation," Locklear said.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## National and World News

FROM THE  
CAMPAIGN TRAIL

### Turnout sparse at Fla. values forum

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — So-called "values voters" gathered here Monday to grill Republican presidential candidates, but the forum was most notable for its empty lecterns and its unanswered questions.

The biggest GOP names — Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, John McCain and Fred Thompson — all sat out the Values Voter Presidential Debate, citing scheduling conflicts. A 2,688-seat theater organizers said would be so full they started a waiting list had several hundred empty seats.

### Clinton says U.S. should trust her

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Thirteen years after presiding over the biggest policy debacle of her husband's presidency, Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday her experience with failure makes her the one who can succeed in providing universal health coverage.

"If you don't learn from your mistakes, you stop growing," Clinton said in an interview with The Associated Press, insisting that voters should trust her leadership as she seeks a return to the White House in her own right.

### Police Taser student after he refuses to leave the mic at a campus forum

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A university student was Tasered by campus police and arrested after loudly and repeatedly trying to ask U.S. Sen. John Kerry questions during a campus forum.

Andrew Meyer, 21, spent a night in jail before his release Tuesday on his own recognizance.

Videos of the Monday night incident show University of Florida police officers pulling Meyer away from the microphone after he asks Kerry about impeaching President Bush and whether they were both members of Skull and Bones at Yale University.

University spokesman Steve Orlando said Meyer was asked to leave the microphone after his allotted time was up. Meyer can be seen refusing to walk away.

As two officers take Meyer by the arms, Kerry, D-Mass., can be heard saying, "That's all right, let me answer his question."

Audience members applaud, and Meyer struggles and screams for help as up to four officers try to remove him from the room.

As Kerry says he will answer the "very important question," Meyer cries out, "Don't Tase me, bro," just before he is shocked by the Taser.

### Bush pushes plan to pleased crowd

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — President Bush, cheered on by Iraq war veterans and their families on the White House's South Lawn, urged lawmakers Tuesday to back his plan to withdraw some troops from Iraq but keep at least 130,000 through next summer or longer.

"I ask the United States Congress to support the troop levels and the strategies I have embraced," Bush said, to loud cheers and chants of "USA! USA!"

The president addressed about 850 members of military-support organizations invited to the event for coffee, juice and pastries.

### Police accused of singling out O.J.

LAS VEGAS (AP) — News conferences, a slew of felony charges, a perp walk in handcuffs and detention in a holding cell without bail — it's clear authorities aren't giving O.J. Simpson celebrity breaks.

Police insist such treatment is prudent for a man known for his chase from officers in a white Ford Bronco. But legal experts are questioning whether Simpson is being singled out for extra-tough prosecution as payback for his murder acquittal more than a decade ago.

Simpson was charged Tuesday with ten felonies, including kidnapping, in the casino-hotel armed robbery of sports memorabilia.

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