

# Madison County food program expands into Fayetteville

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By **Maria Welych / The Post-Standard**

A program that is successfully connecting Madison County farmers to local households year-round has made its first expansion into the Onondaga County market.

## How it works

Customers place orders on the Web at [www.madisonbounty.com](http://www.madisonbounty.com). The program currently offers home deliveries in Chenango and Madison counties, and makes weekly stops at sites at Brookside Greenhouse in Cazenovia, the Madison County Highway Department in Wampsville, Oneida Commons and the East Area YMCA in Fayetteville.

Madison Bounty began its quest to deliver locally grown and produced food items to residents in that county in June 2008, quickly growing to include more than 70 farms which offer more than 600 products.

This summer, the program opened a delivery site at the East Area YMCA in Fayetteville, where residents can pick up produce, artisan cheese, pasture-raised beef and other local products each Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.

YMCA Family Director Amanda Coyle said the partnership is intended to give families more options as they prepare meals. About 15 clients are already using the service, placing their orders online and picking up their items after a visit. "These families are supporting local farms in the area and making healthy choices because of it," she said.

The mobile farmers market isn't just open to YMCA members. On Thursday, clients stopped in the facility's foyer to test strawberry yogurt smoothies produced by Windy Ridge Farm in Canastota. YMCA staff also provide recipes geared to the week's fresh produce.

This week's table was laden with the season's first apples and cider, maple syrup from West Edmeston and honey from Johnston's Bee Farm in Eaton. Coyle said a recent sampling of sugar snap peas was a big hit with children. "They were eating them like they were candy," she said.

The expansion into Onondaga County will be helpful for both farmers and consumers, said Becca Jablonski, agricultural economic development specialist for Madison County. "This gives consumers closer access to a lot of these farms," Jablonski said. "It gives agriculture a face, gives people a chance to interact with farmers."

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