

Farm markets

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bake pies and pastries on the premises and serve café lunches. May-November, Mon.-Sat, 8-5 (6 in peak season).

Guntzville's, on U.S. 31 just south of Elk Rapids, is our favorite berry patch. We watch the sign out front like hawks for the arrival of raspberries, blueberries and blackberries (and for the blue tarp they cover it with when they've nothing to sell).

Heritage Farms at 7435

U.S. 31, near Atwood, is our choice for tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, peppers and herbs when it isn't quite the season. They grow it all hydroponically, from May through November. A month ago, when most markets had nothing but pithy southern imports, we got freshly picked tomatoes there that were so ripe and juicy and sweet we ate them like apples.

Kilcherman's Christmas Cove, 11573 N. Kilcherman Rd., Northport (386-5637), is the go-to place for apples.



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It's not only a market, but a virtual apple museum as well, with 240 varieties, antique and modern. Cider, too. Sept. 15-Nov. 15, 10-5 daily.

Kiteley Farms, 3805 Brooks Rd., Charlevoix, is a bit hard to find, but famous locally for U-pick berries and fruit, as well as for herbs and seasonal produce. Daily 8-8, June through color season.

Pond Hill Farm, 5581 S. Lake Shore Dr. (M-119), Harbor Springs (526-3276), is a visitor-friendly farm and market selling its own free-range eggs,



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Left. hydroponic tomatoes at TLC Tomatoes. Above, Susan Piehl of Cherry Center Farm at her stand in the Farmers Market in Traverse City.

fruits and veggies (some of them hydroponic), and home-canned preserves, salsas and maple syrup. The owners also sell a

message: In an era of specialization, farms can still survive by producing a little of everything.

TLC Tomatoes, 4030 N. Setterbo Rd., Suttons Bay (271-4754), is another hydroponic farm, producing and selling red and gold cherry tomatoes, beefsteak tomatoes, Bibb, red and green leaf, peppers, cucumbers and herbs.

Wells Family Farm, 9490 Elk Lake Rd., Williamsburg (264-9522) is covered earlier in this article. Farm stand open 10-5:30 daily except Tuesday, from strawberry season through September (self-serve at some other times).

Sherri and Graydon DeCamp are authors of "The Connoisseur Up North," a restaurant guide and cookbook.

Previous columns can be viewed by visiting their Web site, www.bayshorebooks.com.

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