



The Pumpkin Vine

September 2010

2010 Pumpkin Patch Tour

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The 2010 Pumpkin Patch Tour was a big success. We tried something new this year and showcased some of the patches in the northern part of the state. We started up in Brigham City with Ross Bowman's patch. Ross and his wife Kaye were kind enough to provide us with breakfast of French



toast and peaches and cream. Ross has a beautiful yard and very impressive garden. Ross's garden is surrounded by flowers and he grows vegetables of all kinds as well as giant pumpkins.



From Brigham City we drove to Ogden to look at Matt McConkie's and Tyler Quigley's patch. We were all heartbroken to see the 840 pounder that Matt lost due to a split on the blossom end. I believe this is the biggest pumpkin ever grown in Utah this early in the year. Luckily Matt has another pumpkin estimating around 560 pounds

that is still growing very well and will be a contender for this year's



top pumpkin. Tyler Quigley also had two nice pumpkins that were both estimating at about 480 pounds. There is enough time left in the year for either one of his pumpkins to reach the 1000 pound mark.

Next we drove up to the bench in Ogden to Dr. Sadiq's patch. Sadiq has just one plant with a very nice pumpkin estimating right around 400 pounds. Sadiq's patch slopes down but he has the pumpkin supported on a relatively flat surface. His plant looked very good and it was easy to see that his pumpkin has a lot of growth potential.



From Ogden we drove to Layton to see a patch of pumpkins grown by some varsity scouts. Brent



Celebrating our 10th year anniversary! Look for specials / offers on our

website: heehawfarms.com. Corn Maze, Pick Your Own Pumpkin Patch, Haunted Hayride, Cornevil Night Terrors, Courtyard Farm Activities. Special discounts for groups and school groups.

Open Friday, September 24 through Saturday, October 30. Monday through Friday 4-10 p.m. Saturday and Fall Break days 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Haunted Hayride and Cornevil Night Terrors Opens Friday October 1 through Saturday October 20. Open every Monday, Friday, Saturday, Fall Break and everyday the last week of October. Of course, don't forget the Pumpkin Drop Saturday, October 23 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Current UGPG members can get 2 people in for the price of 1 @ Hee Haw Farms-just clip the coupon at the end of this newsletter! Also anyone who wants to drop a giant pumpkin from the 175' crane can get their immediate family in for no cost!

Weigh Off

We would like to officially announce our weigh off for 2010. Our weigh off this year will be held at Thanksgiving Point on September 25th right in front of the water tower where we held it last year. Registration will go from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Judging will be from 11:00 am to Noon and then the weigh off will start at noon.

We hope that you all have monster pumpkins growing in your patch but whatever the size we would like to see you on September 25th. As long as your pumpkin is over 100 pounds we hope you will bring it to the weigh off.

A weigh off entry form along with the rules and regulations can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please fill out the entry form and bring it with you to the weigh off.

We will need several volunteers to help out at the weigh off. We will need a lifting crew, a few to help move pumpkins to the scale, a couple people to measure and record pumpkin measurements, and a few for crowd control and other various jobs. If you are available to help out please call Andrew at 801-706-1622. We would appreciate your help very much.

Also Thanksgiving Point will be sponsoring a farmers market on September 24 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Kyle Fox will be attending the farmers market to promote the UGPG and our weigh off. We would like to invite everyone who is interested to attend this event. If you have a pumpkin that you would like to bring to the farmers market please let us know. Please call Kyle Fox at 801-319-9926 for more information.

Other Weigh Offs & Activities Around the State

September 25th – Thanksgiving Point Harvest Festival. The Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers weigh-off will kick off Thanksgiving Point's Harvest Festival. Check out the scarecrows at the Scarecrow Contest or taste some pumpkin treats. Enjoy live music, fall foliage and taste treats to tantalize your senses. Free to the public. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

October 2nd – Vernal Weigh-Off. Basin Nursery, 3150 North Vernal Ave., Vernal, UT. Guess the weight all week. Check in @ 10:00 am. Weigh-off starts @ 12:00. Pumpkin drop in the afternoon. For more information, call Lee Perry @ 1-435-790-1051. leeward-1@hotmail.com.

October 16th - Santaquin Weigh-Off at the Big Red Barn, 900 South 300 West at 2:00 pm. (801-754-5511) Call Kyle Fox at 801-319-9926 for more information. (thebigredbarn@southridgefarms.com)

October 16th - Country Farm Fest Weigh-off in Payson, 4058 West 9600 South, at 5:00 pm. The pumpkin weigh-off is divided into 2 categories with prizes going to the largest, middle weight, and smallest pumpkin in each category. (www.countryfarmfest.com)

October 22nd - Pleasant Grove Hee Haw Farms Pumpkin Drop 11:00-5:00 -any member who offers a pumpkin to drop will get a family pass. Any UGPG member will get 1/2 price park admission. Call Kyle Fox at 801-319-9926 for information.

Oct. 25-Oct. 30 – J & L Nursery Weigh-Off. Drop pumpkins off on Tuesday or Wednesday before 5 pm and pick them up Saturday before noon. 620 North 500 West in Bountiful.

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Wolfley is a varsity scout leader and his scouts decided to grow some giant pumpkins this year. They were kind enough to let us visit their patch and see their progress.



We met with the assistant scout leader Burke Green and also met two of the varsity scouts; James Knight and Braden Checketts. We were impressed with how they had kept such good growth records and even had future projections for the pumpkins. Brent has taught these young men well and it was easy to see how excited they were about the whole experience.



Next we went to Mitch Eiting's patch in Bountiful. Mitch has a smaller lot and showed us how it is possible to grow a 500 pound pumpkin in a patch that is less than 400 square feet.

From there we went to West Valley to see Brent Evans and his patch. Brent has two nice pumpkins growing and he gets a lot of help from his family. For Brent growing pumpkins is a family affair. Brent's son and grandson are involved in the hobby and love growing giant pumpkins.

Our next stop was Taylorsville to see Andrew Israelsen's (me) patch. I lost two of my three

pumpkins. For some reason they just stopped growing. When my second pumpkin, the 919 Israelsen, stopped growing I decided to take it to the Salt Lake County Fair. The pumpkin was estimating at 500 pounds and was a beautiful round orange pumpkin. The pumpkin was the



hit of the Fair and it earned a Best of Show ribbon. I still have one pumpkin that is still growing and was estimating at 730 pounds.



Our last stop was David Bradley's patch. David has a couple beautiful orange pumpkins that are in the high 300 pound range and are growing very well. He also has a greenie that

is smaller than his pumpkins but is growing very quickly. After looking at the pumpkins, Dave and Cathy served us all homemade ice cream and we sat in the shade of his backyard and enjoyed each other's company.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the tour and made it so enjoyable. We would also like to thank those growers who shared their patches with the rest of us. We all learned a lot and had a great time.



Hats and Shirts

We are happy to announce that we have printed new hats and t-shirts for the UGPG. Hats will be offered for \$15, short sleeve tees for \$20 and long sleeve tees for \$25. We will have the merchandise available at the weigh off. To pre-order, please email Matt McConkie at isellutah@gmail.com with the size (s-XXXL) and quantity you would like. If you have already sent in an order, we will have it available at the weigh off.



Chris Miller's Young 1128



Ross Bowman shows his biggest pumpkin



Andrew Israelson in Bowman's backyard



Matt McConkie shows how he does it.



Breakfast at the Bowman's.



Matt McConkie's pride & joy!



Ross Bowman's beauty!



Notice the surveillance camera at the McConkies.

The Perrys enjoying breakfast



Another of Matt McConkie's pumpkins



Braden Checketts & Josh Wolfley's pumpkin at the Scout Patch



The Evan's pumpkin patch



Dr. Sadiq's long gourds



The Boy Scout's patch



Dr. Sadiq's pumpkin (Dr. Pumpkin)



Dave Bradley's pumpkin





Enjoying friendship and homemade ice cream in the Bradley's backyard.



Prize Money Structure for the UGPG Weigh Off 2010

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1st - \$1000 | 6th - \$75 |
| 2nd - \$600 | 7th - \$75 |
| 3rd - \$400 | 8th - \$75 |
| 4th - \$250 | 9th - \$50 |
| 5th - \$100 | 10th - 20th will receive a UGPG Shirt |

2010 UGPG Weigh Off Entry Form

Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers 6th Annual Weigh off at Thanksgiving Point, Lehi, Utah 84043

Growers Name (please print) _____

Current Member: YES or NO If No fill out middle section.

Pumpkin ___ Squash ___ Sound ___ Damaged ___

seed (f) _____ pollinator (m) _____ poll. date _____

start date _____ sq ft _____ feet out _____ lobes ___ main vine Y N

Circ. ___ f-b ___ s-s ___ OTT _____ Est.wt. _____

Signature _____ Date _____

By signing this form the applicant agrees to the rules & regulations.

Membership Application _____ A membership is \$20.00 from Jan-Dec 2010

– Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

The Rules & Regulations

- 1.) This contest is open to UGPG members only. UGPG Membership is \$20.00 per calendar year.
- 2.) "The entry" must be a Cucurbita sp. specimen that was grown by the exhibitor (person signing this document).
- 3.) Entry is limited to one specimen per grower. Please be honest.
- 4.) Minimum weight for an entry is 100 lbs.
- 5.) Additional specimens are welcome, but are ineligible for prizes.
- 6.) Heaviest sound entry wins.
- 7.) A Pumpkin will be defined as 50% or more orange, red, yellow, cream or a combination thereof.
- 8.) A Squash will be defined as more than 50% green, gray, blue or a combination thereof.
- 9.) The entry will be sound without significant soft spots, cracks, or holes through to the cavity. Any material used to seal a breach must be removed for inspection. Judges will probe cracks to determine soundness. Refusal to submit to inspection will result in disqualification. The judge's rulings are final.
- 10.) The entry must be clean & free of dirt or chemical residues. The vine must be trimmed within one inch of the stem. No foreign material may be included with the entry on the scale.
- 11.) The three Judges are; three club/grower representatives.
- 12.) Any attempt to coerce or influence a judge is grounds for disqualification at the discretion of the UGPG executive board.
- 13.) If a judge has a fruit entered and should the entry require a Judge's ruling, then the entered Judge will be replaced by another grower until after the final decision is made.
- 14.) Registration begins at 8:00 AM. All entries must be on the ground staged for inspection by 11:00 AM. All entries must arrive on a pallet.
- 15.) Neither Thanksgiving Point nor the UGPG will be responsible for any damages caused to any person(s) or specimen(s) at this event.
- 16.) Exhibitor must be present with his or her pumpkin to win, unless other arrangements have been made prior to the weigh off.

Prizes have not been finalized.