

Group explores possibility of a Farmers Market here

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If you live in Miner County, don't be surprised if you receive a call from a young person asking if you are interested in growing and selling food this summer at a farmers market. If a local group of Miner County youth have their way, Howard will be the home to a new farmers market featuring locally grown and prepared foods.

The development of a farmers market is under exploration by the Miner County 4-H Teen Leadership Council. Although they are not certain how it will evolve, they would like to see it start as a pilot event this summer.

"Right now, our goal is to have the market on four to six days," said Morgan Andenas one of the students leading the charge to form the market. "A lot, however, will depend on what vendors are interested in."

To understand what vendors would like out of a market, the youth are encouraging potential vendors to attend a meeting on Thursday, February 24 at 7:00 pm. to be held at the 4-H Building at the Miner County Fair Grounds. The meeting will allow vendors an opportunity to express their thoughts about the market.

Farmers markets are increasing in popularity across the United States. People are increasingly seeking fresh fruits, vegetables, and prepared foods "It's also an opportunity for people to start a business," said Karen Berak, the Miner County Extension Educator working with the students. "I'd love to see some

young people start their own businesses growing and selling food."

Andenas and Melissa Reisch, attended a farmers market conference in Little Falls, Minnesota to learn more about how farmers markets work. "We were surprised to learn that so many small towns in Minnesota have farmers markets," said Reisch

Reisch acknowledged that the farmers market is a long way from becoming a reality, but she added "with a little luck it just might happen."

The Teen Leadership Council works on community service projects of their choice and promotes the 4-H program, learning leadership and other life skills throughout the process.

Anyone interested in learning more about the farmers market is encourage to contact Karen Beranak at 772-4661.