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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FLW farmers' market set to begin Friday**

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo.** – Fort Leonard Wood is scheduled to hold a farmers' market from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday at Colyer Park here.

The market, sponsored by the Pulaski County Sheltered Workshop, is scheduled to be held monthly in conjunction with Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's monthly Family movie nights.

The Pulaski County Sheltered Workshop is a nonprofit organization in Richland that provides employment to disabled individuals in the area.

"Our 53 employees help in our garden, which includes two greenhouses and a half-acre vegetable plot, along with flower gardens," said Samantha Kramer, PCSW's Farmers' Market at Fort Leonard Wood's market manager and PCSW's greenhouse manager.

"The market came about as an offshoot of the sustainability efforts being undertaken at Fort Leonard Wood," Kramer said.

Pulaski County is designated as a rural "food desert" by the United States Department of Agriculture, meaning that its citizens are without access to fresh, healthy, local and affordable food.

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“We want to change this. We believe everyone should have access to these foods, especially our men and women serving in our armed forces,” Kramer said.

For the first few markets, organizers expect about 10 vendors and two education vendors — the Pulaski County Master Gardeners and the Pulaski County Permaculture Club.

“We’ve got an amazing array of goods slated for the market, all local and fresh. We will have grass-fed beef, bison products of all kinds, fresh organic produce, and vegetable and flower plants. Our market is producer only, meaning that everything sold was grown or raised by the vendor selling it, from start to finish,” Kramer said.

“The goal of this market is obviously to provide fresh, healthy food to our servicemen and women but beyond that, we want to create a market that inspires our active-duty and retired service members to start their own garden,” she said.

“Military spouses engaged in homemaking can earn extra income for their Families by producing vegetables in their backyards (with the added benefit of being able to feed their loved ones healthy food),” Kramer said. “The benefits of supporting this market extend beyond just the local farmer — supporting this market means supporting your community, your neighbors, and your local economy.”

Future markets will be held from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the following dates, at the following locations:

- Friday, Colyer Park
- June 12, Colyer Park
- July 17, FMWR Rec Plex
- Aug. 28, Colyer Park
- Sept. 18, Colyer Park.

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For more information, contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.4145.

### *About Fort Leonard Wood*

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*Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains about 80,000 military and civilians each year.*

*Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training*

*and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only four reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Noncommissioned Officers Academy.*

*Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.*

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