



## Media Release

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### **Giant Aspirations for the Second Annual Great Pumpkin Contest**

Giant pumpkins will once again take over Chorro St. in San Luis Obispo as grower's county-wide test their growing skills to see who can produce the heaviest giant pumpkin in the county. At last years contest, enthusiastic attendees witnessed the weighing of the heaviest pumpkin ever grown and weighed in San Luis Obispo County which tipped the scales at 714 pounds. The second annual contest will be no different as growers from the Central Coast will once again enter their giants to see who will be king.

The contest will be held on Chorro St. during the San Luis Obispo Downtown Association's Thursday Night Farmers' Market, between 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on October 18. Giant pumpkins can grow between 200 and 1,500 pounds, with the world record pumpkin weighing in at 1,502 pounds.

Entry forms and official rules for the contest have been made available to all contestants at the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau website [www.slofarmbureau.org](http://www.slofarmbureau.org). All pumpkins entered must be a shade of orange and must be grown from a giant pumpkin seed germinated on the Central Coast.

Spectators are guaranteed an amazing show as the SLO Co. Young Farmers and Ranchers will be donating their time as the official Pumpkin Lifting Team sponsored by Quinn Rental Services. Some giants grow to be large enough that it takes upwards to 10 men to move each pumpkin. In addition to the weigh-off a pumpkin education center, presented by the Foundation for Agriculture Awareness, will be available for kids who want to learn more about these giants.

Officials from the San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures and the Cal Poly BioResources and Ag Engineering department will be on hand to certify the results, while local celebrity judges will award prizes in the most beautiful and most unusual categories sponsored by Farm Supply. The top three heaviest pumpkins will roll home with a share of \$1,500 from Coast National Bank, while, a special prize will be awarded to the heaviest pumpkin grown by a 4-H and FFA student sponsored by Kellogg Garden Products.

During the summer, the Farm Bureau and Farm Supply seeded the contest by donating enough seeds and sprouts to grow approximately 5,000 pumpkin plants. Local giant pumpkin grower, Paul Rys, donated over 2,000 seeds from his personal collection. A portion of those were then sprouted in the Talley Vegetables' seed chamber in Arroyo Grande and distributed to the 4-H and FFA at local community events.

A special thank you goes out to Big Images for printing the Great Pumpkin signs and banners, Apple Box Studios for producing the promotional material and Mediums for printing the Lifting Team shirts.

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Mission Statement:

"To lead San Luis Obispo County in the protection, promotion and advocacy for the benefit of our members and community"