

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Fourth Annual Value Added Market Day Set For July 23

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ST. CROIX -- The Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture will hold the 4th Annual Value Added Market Day Vendorama from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, July 23 at the Rudolph E. Shulterbrandt Agricultural Complex, Government House announced via press release Friday.

The purpose of the market is to allow local farmers and vendors to showcase products that are made from locally-grown agricultural produce. Products expected to be available to the public include honey, soaps, fruit wines, fruit-flavored honey wines, fruit juices, hot sauces, jams, baked goods, lotions, beauty products, plantain chips and much more.

"The environmental conditions in the Virgin Islands are perfect for the cultivation and production of a large number of tropical fruits," said Carlos Robles, Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture commissioner. "Availability of these fruits is seasonal, so this is an excellent venue for persons in the community to show what they can do to extend the shelf-life and add value to perishable produce. Value-added items can significantly increase a farmer's income."

Federal and local government agencies will also be present to provide information on programs and incentives that are available to start or improve businesses, according to the release.

Meanwhile in St. Thomas, D.O.A. announced that construction of a retaining wall to facilitate the expansion of the the Bordeaux Farmers' Market would commence on Monday, and is expected to be completed in October. The work has been contracted to Grade All Construction.

Estate Bordeaux residents living in close proximity to the market have been advised of the pending work.

"The market expansion will enhance the overall market environment and improve the vending areas for the regular farmers' market, the annual Bordeaux Agriculture Fair, and other activities in the future," Mr. Robles said.

As a result of the construction, the bi-monthly farmers market will be temporarily relocated to a place to be determined.

D.O.A. apologized for any inconvenience that the construction may cause. For more information contact the office at 774-5182.

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