this season's harvest happenings

North State families can experience a full bounty of farm life... just a short drive from home. Fun for all ages – grandparents too!

Nash Ranch in Redding is a family tradition, featuring a 15-acre If you appreciate local foods and wines, you'll enjoy the Sierra pumpkin patch, haunted house, giant corn maze, kiddie hay maze, train rides, bounce house, pony rides, farm animal petting zoo and more! Open daily October 1st- 31st, 10am-6pm. Friday and Saturday nights the Haunted House and night corn maze are open until 11pm. Located one mile south of Shasta College on Old Oregon Trail. Cost, events and info: www.nashranch.com; (530) 241-0763

Historic Hawes Farms in Anderson offers "Fall Farmtastic Fun" and weekend festivals all month long. Don't miss the giant 20-acre u-pick pumpkin patch featuring 50+ pumpkin and gourd varieties. Attractions include zip lines, a jumping pillow, kiddie play area, pig races, gemstone mining, and pony rides! Ride around the corn maze and through the walnut orchard on the quarter-scale Hawes Farms Express Railroad! Fun and food for everyone, plus three haunted attractions: Field of Screams, Carnival of Fear, and the all new Zombie Slayer Ride, an extreme paintball experience! Opens Saturday, September 29th with an old-fashioned farm dance, the Hoe-Down. Special Events to look forward to: Oktoberfest, Western Days, Fall Harvest Festival, and more! Located at the intersection of Dersch and Deschutes Rds. in Anderson. Info: www.HistoricHawesFarms.com; (530) 365-8488.

Visit the Dairyville Orchard Festival in Tehama County on October 20th, 10am-4pm. Join your Tehama County neighbors for some old-fashioned orchard fun in celebration of local agriculture and community spirit. Enjoy fun entertainment, arts & crafts, children's activities & a diaper derby. Free admission and parking. Held at Lassen View School, Hwy. 99E in Los Molinos. Info: www.dairyvillefestival.org; (530) 527-4081.

Butte County's Johnny Appleseed Days in Paradise is the oldest harvest festival in the state and a celebration honoring local apple history. Families will enjoy live music and over 1200 locally made apple pies! Children's games, face painting, live entertainment and over 120 artisans! Open October 6th from 10am-5pm and October 7th from 10am-4pm. Free admission. Held at Paradise Intermediate School, 5665 Recreation Dr. Paradise. Info: www.paradisechamber.com/JAD_2011.html; (530) 877-9356.

Visit Country Pumpkins in Orland! Open daily October 1st-31st from 10am-6pm. Features 21 varieties of pumpkins, and interesting gourds. Walk the 10-acre corn maze for just \$3/person during the day (benefits the 4H program). Attractions: hay pyramid, corn tire, hay slide, baby animals and more! Haunted Maze six nights only: October 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27, \$8/person. Easy to find. Located at 7152 Highway 32, east of Orland between Road P and Stoney Creek. Watch for signs. Info: www.countrypumpkins.net.

At TJ Farms in Chico, families enjoy the popular u-pick pumpkin patch, hay bale obstacle course, picnic area, rain or shine pumpkin-decorated barn, and corn shellers. View the old farm tractor and visit with farm animals to feed and pet. In the farm's country store, sample tasty jams, vinegars, exceptional dressings and pickles. Open weekdays 2-6pm (closed Friday, October 12th) and weekends 10am-6pm, rain or shine, October 7th-31st. Group tours by appointment. Free admission. 3600 Chico Ave. Info: www.tjfarmsestates.com; (530) 343-2294.

Driving on Highway 99 near Los Molinos, amid the beautiful orchards, is a special place called Julia's Fruit Stand. The hard-working Brandt family offers fantastic fresh fruits and produce, grown on their family farm and the farms of nearby neighbors. With their daughters at their side, Kathy and James Brandt share the bounty of the season's harvest with you. Taste fresh-picked apple varieties like Somerset, Granny Smith and Fuji. Pumpkins up to 100 pounds along with an array of produce types are available, including Purple Russian and Mr. Stripy tomatoes. Affordable fun for the whole family! Open 8am-6pm daily. Info: (530) 528-8754.

Oro Farm Trail Passport Weekend taking place in and around Butte County on October 6th and 7th. Whether a romantic getaway or family educational adventure, it's a grand weekend of farm-fresh food sampling and wine tasting while visiting local farms, orchards & wineries on a self-guided tour along the beautiful Butte County countryside. Weekend passport ticket is \$25. Info: www.sierraoro.org; (530) 566-9849.

A drive out on Highway 97 just north of downtown Weed in Siskiyou Co. brings you to Papa's Pumpkin Patch, where there's "a little bit of everything" - pounds and pounds of pumpkins to choose from, ornamental corn, gourds, a gift shop, photo murals and activities that promise to create a wonderful outdoor adventure for your family! Open seven days a week from 10am-sunset. Located 3.8 miles outside of Weed at 4916 Solus Dr.; look for signs on the left side of Highway 97. Info: (530) 938-2755.

Come celebrate everything apple at the 21st anniversary Manton Apple Festival in Northeastern Tehama County on October 6th from 9am-4pm. 100+ craft & food booths, live music on two stages, kids activities and a day of fun for the whole family! Proceeds support community projects & scholarships. Enter in the apple pie contest (junior and adult divisions) and have your pie judged by local TV personalities. Free admission. Please, no pets. Manton Elementary School, 31345 Forward Rd. Info: (530) 474-1113.

Max's Miracle Ranch Pumpkin Patch in Butte County offers a corn maze, a haunted corn maze on Saturday evening (7-9pm), vintage train rides (\$2.50), a petting zoo, face painting (\$1), horseback rides (\$3), u-pick in-the-field fruit, pumpkins (\$2 & up), apples, pears, pomegranates and persimmons, hay wagon rides, gold panning, snack shack and school field trips. Funds raised at the Miracle Ranch benefit Max's Miracles. Open daily through October 31st from 9am-6pm. Free entry. 3476 Smith Ave. in Biggs. Info: www.maxsmiracles.org; (530) 354-7168 or (530) 868-6111.

Located in central Siskiyou County just west of I-5 is Hunter Orchards in Gazelle. The farm is a favorite fall adventure for North State families. Enjoy their u-pick organic pumpkin patch, children's hay maze, picnic area (bring blanket) and open-air store. Open daily October 1st-31st from 10am to 6pm. Large group tours by appointment. Features unique winter squash, gourds, garlic, apples and pears, all certified organically grown. Located between Gazelle and Grenada at 14431 Old Westside Rd. From the south, take the Gazelle-Edgewood exit towards Gazelle and follow the pumpkin signs. Info: (530) 436-2532.

Visit Henshaw Farms Pumpkin Patch. All pumpkins are locally grown by Chico High School Chico Future Farmers of America students. You will find pumpkins in all shapes and sizes, gourds, cranberry beans, zinnias and several varieties of squash. Open October 1st-31st. Saturdays & Sundays from 11am-4pm and Monday-Friday from 2:30-6pm. Located at the corner of Guynn and Henshaw (just off East Ave.) in Chico. Info: (530) 891-3026 x383.

Celebrate autumn at the Patrick Ranch Museum in Durham. Glimpse back in time, while enjoying newer traditions at the second annual AutumnFest held October 12th-28th. The Patrick Ranch Museum pumpkin patch is open to the public: \$5 entry fee and free for children under 3 years. The ranch is open Saturdays 10am-5pm & Sundays 10am-3pm. Tour the Glenwood Farm house, animal exhibit, ranch tours, hayrides and participate in the free children's activities. Visit the country store while picking your favorite pumpkins from our pumpkin patch. School classroom tours are available Thursdays & Fridays 9am-2pm. The cost is \$4 and includes a pumpkin. Call Tuesday-Thursday 10am-2pm to reserve your spot. 10381 Midway, Durham. Info: www.patrickranchmuseum.org. (530) 342-4359

