

Watermelon Festivals, Hertford and Fair Bluff ^[1]

State Watermelon Festivals: Hertford County Watermelon Festival and Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival

By Amy Kemp
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See also: [North Carolina State Symbols and Official Adoptions main page](#) ^[2]



2011 North Carolina Watermelon Queen at the Hertford County Watermelon Festival. Photo by Flickr user Sheryl Long

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In 1993, the General Assembly adopted the [Hertford County Watermelon Festival](#) ^[4] as the official Northeastern North Carolina Watermelon Festival (*Session Laws, 1993, c. 212* ^[5]).

In 1993, the General Assembly also designated the [Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival](#) ^[6] as the official Southeastern North Carolina Watermelon Festival (*Session Laws, 1993, c. 212* ^[5]).

About the Hertford County Watermelon Festival

The Hertford County Watermelon Festival (also called the North Carolina Watermelon Festival,) began in 1985 and takes place in the town of Murfreesboro, North Carolina. Events held include a parade, a 5K race, a festival market with food and craft vendors, entertainment from local bands, amusement rides, and Little Farmers/Princess beauty pageants.

About the Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival

The Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival (also called the North Carolina Watermelon Festival) officially started in 1986, but can trace its roots back to a simple competition between friends in 1979. Monroe Enzor and AJ Worley were semi-retired best friends who, as a hobby, began competing to see who could grow the largest watermelon. In the summer they would truck their prized watermelons into town to weigh them, and every year the crowd watching the weighing would grow. Seeing that there was an interest, the two men started the Fair Bluff Watermelon Grower's Association and created a festival around the competition. Both Enzor and Worley died in 1991, but the festival continues to this day with arts and crafts, festival beauty pageants, a dance, a parade, a duck race, and other assorted games and contests.

North Carolina Session Laws

Exerpt from CHAPTER 212

HOUSE BILL 318

AN ACT TO ADOPT THE HERTFORD COUNTY WATERMELON FESTIVAL AND THE FAIR BLUFF WATERMELON FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL NORTH CAROLINA WATERMELON FESTIVALS.

Whereas, watermelon farming has been a successful vocation of many farmers in eastern North Carolina, especially the Counties of Columbus and Hertford, for generations; and

Whereas, the watermelon industry has been and continues to be an important part of the State's economy; and

