

One in a *Ver* Million

Meet Dani Dornbusch

By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

The Vermillion Area Farmers Market wouldn't be possible without vendors, and the customers who visit their tables each week during the Thursday sessions at the Clay County Fairgrounds, and the Saturday sessions in downtown Vermillion.

One feature of the market that makes it such a success is its "kid friendliness."

The market, besides offering information for consumers and producers alike, also features a children's tent so that shoppers and market participants alike don't have to worry about bringing their young children to the market.

Manning the children's tent this year is a familiar face, often seen at the market last year, or on the University of South Dakota campus, where she is pursuing her doctorate degree when she's not working at the campus library.

She also will soon be busy on the stage of the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center, involved in rehearsals for this summer's Vermillion Community Theatre production of "Robin Hood - Spirit of the Greene."

Thursday afternoon, Dani Dornbusch was busy painting faces and supervising other projects at the market's children tent to keep a growing number of young people busy and entertained.

"I will be here (all summer) except I'm also involved with the Vermillion Community Theatre, so I'll have to share some time," she said. "Until that becomes a conflict, I'll be here as much as I can."

Dani, who serves as the market's children activity coordinator, tries to design each week's events to coincide, as much as possible, with what the vendors are selling at the market. Her goal is for the kids to not only have a good time, but also learn something new.

"I like to try to see what the vendors are going to be selling, and then I'll have coloring sheets that match what they're doing," Dani said. "I like to have a scavenger hunt, so kids can go out and meet the vendors and see what the vegetables look like and match their pictures with the actual vegetables."

Other regular activities at the children's tent include face painting and story time.

"I also like to check out some books from the public library that relate to farmer's market activities, and read books," she said. "The kids always enjoy books, and I like doing different voices while I read. It makes it more fun."

Dani first became involved with the Vermillion Area's Farmer Market last year.

"This is pretty new to me. I saw that they needed some help with the kids tent; I love working with kids, and I thought the farmer's market is a great way to

get involved in the community for a great cause, and see some new faces," she said. "I really like healthy lifestyles and eating healthy, and I thought this was a great way to promote both of those."

"It's fun to see the new foods, and to experience trying some of them myself," Dani said.

As she spoke, approximately a dozen young children played in the market's area on the fairgrounds.

"On any given day, I can have anywhere from two to about 20 kids," Dani said. "It just depends - they're in and out, and they really like the face painting, it seems."

She's glad to be able to fill the role as the market's children activity coordinator once more, and is also looking forward for the community theatre rehearsals to begin.

"I love being involved with the community theatre," Dani said. "It's always nice when you can



see familiar faces and just get together. It's just going to be fun, and it will be a chance to get to know some more people.

There are over 100 people involved with the show this year. It's going to be an awesome time."

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