7th Annual **Heritage Harvest Festival** at Monticello

The Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello is quickly becoming a regional favorite among East Coast festival goers interested in local food, farming, heirloom tastings, music, and family activities. This year’s festival featured Cary Fowler, American agriculturalist and the former executive director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the current senior advisor to the trust, and Steve Bender, *Southern Living* magazine writer and well-known blog personality “The Grumpy Gardener,” a feature popular on *Southern Living*’s blog titled *The Daily South*.

New to this year’s festival was a music stage with national acts; an enhanced family area with a petting zoo that included cows, sheep, goats, and chickens; and a foodie-inspired food and beverage tasting. The Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello is presented annually by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello and Southern Exposure Seed Exchange and is a celebration of the revolutionary gardener Thomas Jefferson. Often considered America’s “first foodie,” Jefferson championed vegetable cuisine, plant experimentation, and sustainable agriculture.

Visitors enjoy the offerings at the 7th annual Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello.