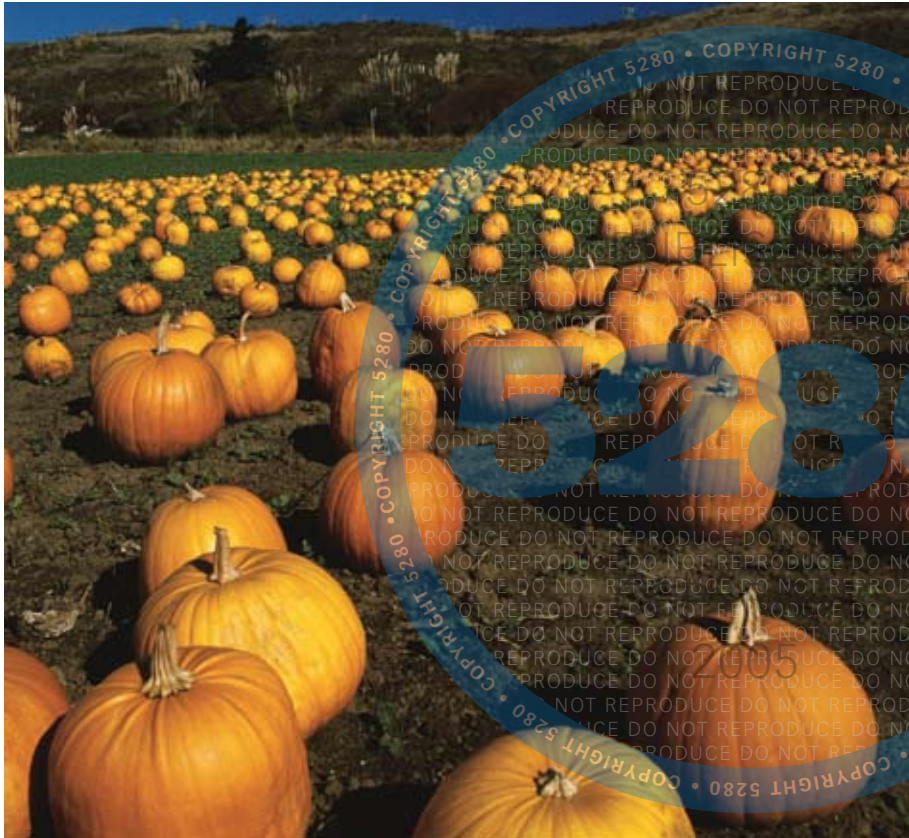


The Fall Fruits of Your Labor

These harvest favorites are sweeter direct from the source.
By Chuck Mindenhall



OK, so we're not exactly New England, but autumn in Colorado is still a colorful time of year when the air grows golden crisp, a smattering of deciduous leaves turn, and local farms open the rickety gates to their harvests. Colorado is home to several sprawling pumpkin patches from which to select your Halloween jack-o'-lantern. Close

to town, we recommend the Rock Creek Farm in Broomfield.

Though you can get fresh Colorado-picked apples in Denver, Penrose (30 miles south of Colorado Springs) has the closest—and best—orchards to handpick 'em yourself. Penrose begs for a romantic day trip or old-fashioned Sunday drive with the kids.

Our choices for Colorado's best pumpkin patches and apple-picking locations:

Pumpkins:

Rock Creek Farm, 2005 S. 112th St., Broomfield, 303-465-9565; its 100-plus acres of corn mazes, plump pumpkins, gourds, and Indian corn make for a full-day excursion. \$3 per field pumpkin; Sept. 30–Oct. 31. (www.rockcreekfarm.com)

Miller Farms, 9040 Highway 66, Platteville, 970-785-6133; Fall Harvest Festival runs Sept. 10–Nov. 24; \$10 general admission, free for children 3 and under; price per pumpkin \$3–\$10 depending on size. (www.millerfarms.net)

Anderson Farms, 6728 WCR 3 1/4, Erie, 303-702-1844; pumpkins range from \$2 to \$12; adults \$10, kids \$8 to get in; runs Sept. 23–Oct. 31. (www.andersonfarms.com)

Apples:

(In Penrose)

The Happy Apple Farm, 1190 First St., 719-372-6300; a bonanza with 14 varieties of apples from 3,000 trees. Admission is free, apples \$.95 per pound, best picked August to October. Pumpkin patch open Sept. 17–Oct. 30; priced \$.40 per pound. (www.happyapplefarm.com)

Third Street Apples, 935 Third St., 719-372-6283; admission is free, apples \$.99 per pound or \$15 per half bushel, open Wed.–Mon. from Labor Day until approximately Oct. 23.

MUSIC: JAKE'S PICKS



The Trampolines

Firefall, Poco, the Eagles, and other vocal-oriented rock bands from the early '70s made Colorado's mountains their temporary homes. Now, local band The Trampolines is following in the stylistic footsteps of these old-school mountain types.

Mark Sundermeier and Chris Stake write and perform brain-sticking, hooky acoustic rock gems as a duo and, on occasion, as a full band.

Even the band's promo photos are a throwback to the days when

folks like Jock Bartley, Richie Furay, and John Denver wrote great pop songs with beautifully intertwining harmonies—another similarity shared by The Trampolines. It's a great disk for doing a little time travel: Just throw the new self-titled CD in the deck and point your car West for an afternoon. To hear The Trampolines for yourself, check out Jake's picks at www.5280.com.

JAKE SCHROEDER hosts the *Mountain Homegrown Show* on 99.5-*The Mountain* and is the founder and lead singer of *Opie Gone Bad*.