Suppliers of Packaging for the Strawberry Industry

Boxes, baskets, buckets, clamshells, pulp cups...there are many options for containers for strawberries! This year, the NC Strawberry Association has compiled a list of packaging suppliers to help growers get ready for the harvest season. This list was initially printed in the February/March issue of The Strawberry Grower, the newsletter of the NC Strawberry Association.

The following companies are members of the NC Strawberry Association. We encourage you to support these member businesses. They are listed alphabetically.

**Baskpac Products**
24 Balmoral Court
Kingston, Ont K7M7T1 Canada
877-281-5435
864-363-0340 (local rep, Larry Davenport)
sales@baskpac.com
www.baskpac.com
Plastic baskets in various sizes

**Cottle Strawberry Nursery, Inc.**
*2007 Strawberry Expo Sponsor*
Sonny Cottle
2488 N. NC 403 Hwy.
Faison, NC 28341
910-267-4531
cell 919-921-0456
www.cottlefarms.com
Plastic buckets

**Industrial Container Corporation**
Ron Horney
107 Motsinger St.
High Point, NC 27260
336-886-7031
ron@iccpkg.com
www.iccpkg.com
Corrugated shipping trays, picking flats, 4 qt. corrugated basket w. wire handle, clamshells, pulp cups, “Baskpac” plastic baskets, and more.

**Monte Package Company**
Mike Vasta
P.O. Box 126
Riverside, MI 49084
269-849-1722 or 800-653-2807
cell 269-313-4447
mikey@montepkg.com
www.montepkg.com
Standard or modular 1 lb. clamshells, pulp quarts, shipping trays, 4-qt flats, 8-qt flats, 10-lb. picking box, custom labeling, and many other items and sizes.

**Peninsula Packaging Company**
Mark Rath, Al Fotheringham
2540 Wilco Blvd., P.O. Box 787
Wilson, NC 27894
252-265-5590
cell 724-372-5593
mrath@penpack.net
www.penpack.net
Clamshells and many other plastic containers (manufacturer), insert pads, custom labeling.

**Southern Container Corporation**
*2007 Strawberry Expo Sponsor*
James Brake, Ronnie Vick, Harry Helmer
PO Box 216, 6003 Ward Blvd.
Wilson, NC, 27894
252-237-0539 or 800-261-2295
sales@socontainers.com
www.socontainers.com
Pulp cups, shipping trays, buckets, plastic baskets, clamshells, soaker pads, picking trays, pint plastic mesh baskets, custom labeling, and more.

**Other companies:**
These companies are not current members of NCSA, but are on our lists. This list is by no means complete; there are many other sources. If you buy from any company not on this list that you think should be included, or you are a supplier who has been left off, please contact NCSA.

**C. L. Rabb, Inc.**
(NC)
704-865-0295, www.clrabb.com
Corrugated packaging, including strawberry box

**Global Supply**
(CA)
w.d.franklin@att.net
Clamshells

**Packaging Corporation of America**
(VA)
www.packagingcorp.com

**Rockford Pacghage Supply**
(MI)
800-444-7225, www.rockfordpack.com
Wide variety of items

**Ropak Packaging**
(FL)
800-776-7376, www.ropakcorp.com
Rigid “stack & store” ventilated plastic strawberry harvesting boxes

**Container Notes**
Several growers in South Carolina are using a half-flat box (Monte Package Co.) for retail market. It holds four quart containers, makes a great gift box, and keeps berries from spilling in the car.

Peninsula Packaging is proud of its Sustainability Initiatives at its California plant. It uses recycled drink bottle scrap to make new PET containers and has a 10-acre photovoltaic “sun farm” to produce electrical power.

Exhibitors at the Southeast Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Savannah showed off some neat “Stack and Store” heavy duty harvest lugs: when you stack them one way, they nest for storage, but when you turn every other box 180 degrees, they are separated and can be stacked filled with fruit. They are carried by Ropak (and maybe by other suppliers).

Earthcycle packaging is made of palm fiber and is 100% biodegradable/recyclable. It can be covered with PLA (cornstarch-based) film. It’s a bit more expensive but would be attractive for organic products. Check with Monte Package Co. Recycling real “beer flats” for berries or using other recycled boxes is not a good idea because of food safety concerns. However you can buy similar boxes new.

Do your PYO customers or harvest workers use buckets for harvesting? You should have a process for washing and disinfecting buckets between uses.