

Dripping Springs Farmers Market Rules

Mission Statement: *To provide a community gathering place where local food producers, artisans and community organizations educate and sell directly to consumers.*

The purpose of these rules is to govern the operation and management of the Dripping Springs Farmers Market (the Market) as administered by the Dripping Springs Farmers Market Association Committee (the FMC).

1. Operational Rules

1.1 Application and Fees

- All Market Participants must complete the appropriate application, pay the applicable fees and be approved by the Market Manager or the FMC.
- New Applicants may be accepted into the Market on a temporary status, pending an inspection. Upon review, the FMC may revoke the temporary status, extend a probationary period, or grant full acceptance as a Market Participant.

1.2 Market Participants

- Producers (farmers, ranchers, fishers), prepared-foods producers (bakers, ready-to-eat, value-added), artists and craftspeople, service providers, entertainers, and community organizations, that fulfill the Mission of the Market, may participate in the Market.
- An approved Vendor may assign an Agent to sell their product at the Market.
- Participants in the Market include Vendors, Agents, and any other individual who has applied and received approval to participate in the Market.

1.3 Site Inspection

- All Vendors must agree to and assist in the inspection of their operations by representatives of the Market at any time. For inspections farther than 50 miles from Dripping Springs, the applicant will be charged a mileage fee at the current IRS rate per mile.
- If a Vendor does not own the land used to grow their products, they must provide documentation from the landowner as part of the application.
- Wild gathered products may be sold with written permission of the landowner and FMC approval.

1.4 Booth Fees

- Market booth fees will be determined annually and assessed weekly. Income generated from booth fees will be used for Market Manager salary, marketing and advertising, and other expenses associated with the operation of the Market.
- Participants must comply with the fee schedule found at www.cityofdrippingsprings.com.

1.5 Booth Assignments, Appearance and Safety

- Vendor booth spaces are 10' wide by 10' deep, including back-stock storage area. All selling and promotion must be contained within the booth space. All product, signs, and booth furniture (including tables and chairs) must be placed inside the assigned booth space.
- The Market Manager assigns booth spaces to all Participants. Assigned spaces not occupied 30 minutes prior to opening may be reassigned to another Participant.
- Each booth space must prominently display a sign clearly identifying the business name and location of the farm or business. Feather flags are prohibited.
- All booths must be setup by the Opening Bell. No booths may be taken down prior to close of Market without the Manager's permission.
- Booths should be arranged so that customers are able to shop without invading another Participant's space.
- Booth areas must be kept tidy throughout the market day and must be left clean at the end of the market day.

- Participants are expected to provide trash receptacles when offering samples and remove the trash from the premises. Market trash containers are for customers' use only.
- Participants must park in the assigned lots/spaces designated for Vendors. Driving through the Market selling area is prohibited.
- There will be a designated truck vending area for Vendors who will sell from their trucks (i.e. food trailers).
- Vendors cooking food on site must have their own 2A10BC fire extinguisher. If using a deep fryer, a Class K extinguisher is required.
- Booth tents must be weighted down with a minimum of 25 lbs per leg.
- If wind gusts exceed 13 mph during market hours, the Market Manager has the discretion to require vendors to remove the canopy from the tent frame or remove tents entirely.

1.6 Registration and Attendance

To attend the Market, Market Participants are required to register and pay applicable fees online by the time designated by the Market Manager. In case of emergency, the Participants shall contact Market Manager as soon as possible. Failure to attend the market without Market Manager's consent will forfeit the registration fee.

1.7 Public Policies

- No smoking will be allowed in the market area.
- All Participants must conduct themselves in a courteous and professional manner at all times.
- No loud, aggressive promotion is allowed.
- No consumption of illegal drugs is allowed at the Market.
- Leashed dogs are allowed at the Market. Dog-owners are required to collect and properly dispose of waste.

1.8 Grievances

- Grievances about the Market should be directed to the Market Manager in writing using the *DS Farmers Market Complaint and Incident Report*. All such grievances will be considered by the FMC.

1.9 Fines and Penalties

- Infringement of the Rules may result in verbal warning, written warning, fine, suspension or expulsion from the Market. Penalty Fees/Fines that are levied must be paid prior to re-entering the Market for selling.

1.10 Market Manager

- The Market Manager's duties shall include collecting booth fees, assigning market booths, supervising the Market, and other duties as assigned by the FMC. The Manager will be the final authority on the day of the Market. All decisions may be appealed to the FMC for later consideration.
- The Manager will maintain order and cleanliness, start the market, and distribute information about the Market. The Manager has the discretion to ask anyone to leave the market area.

1.11 Community Organizations

- Community organizations that fulfill the Mission of the Market and seek to fundraise or educate at the Market shall submit an application. The organization's product and/or activity must be approved by the FMC.

1.12 Opening Bell

- All Vendors must wait for the sound of the Opening Bell to commence sales to the public.

1.13 Public Dissemination of Information

- Because of potential pedestrian and traffic safety hazards, and space limitation at the market's venue, the dissemination of information is regulated during market hours. Those seeking to disseminate information, not governed by other provisions of these rules, must:
 1. Disseminate information in areas designated by the Market Manager;
 2. Not impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic; and
 3. Not interfere or disrupt normal Market operation.
- Only Participants who have applied and been approved for booth space may bring tables and chairs or other furniture to be placed inside the Farmers Market. Such furniture may only be placed inside a booth.

2. Regulatory Rules

2.1 Sales Tax

- Each Vendor is responsible for his or her own sales tax permit and sales tax payments.

2.2 Weights and Measures

- A scale certified by Texas Department of Agriculture must be used at the Market for all products sold by weight.

2.3 Food Samples

- Food samples must be distributed in accordance with the rules set forth by the *DSFM Food Sampling Rules* and Texas Department of State Health Services.

2.4 Potentially Hazardous Foods and Product Temperature

- Potentially Hazardous Foods must be held at proper temperature, as currently defined by law.
- Vendors are solely responsible for any damages resulting from the sale of unsafe, unapproved or unsound goods.

2.5 Home Process Foods Law

- Home-canned processed foods and baked goods can be sold at farmers markets. They must comply with the Texas Cottage Food Laws as defined by the Texas Department of State Health Services and Texas Health and Safety Code.

2.6 Permits and Licenses

- All Vendors must obtain any and all required permits and licenses required by the State of Texas and Hays County to sell each product, and submit copies with their application. Knowledge and receipt of the required permits and licenses are the responsibility of the Vendor.
- Organic labeling and claims require proof of current certification by USDA accredited certifier.
- Vendors are responsible for complying with federal, state and local health regulations and licensing requirements governing the production, display, distribution, sampling and sale of their products.

2.7 Indemnity Agreement

- All Market Participants (including Agents) are required to sign the Indemnity Agreement as part of the Application.

3. Product Rules

3.1 Product Source

- All items sold at the Market must be raised, prepared, processed, or crafted by Vendor within a 150-mile radius of City of Dripping Springs and meet the Mission of the Market.
- If a specialty product is produced or processed outside of the 150-mile radius, but within the State of Texas, the FMC shall review and may approve exceptions on an annual basis.

- Vendors may resell items that complement their own products, not to exceed 20% of their inventory.
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) distributions are allowed at the Market. Items included in CSA share distributions, including eggs, agricultural products or value-added items, must be produced by Vendor or obtained from another Market Vendor.

3.2 Product Quality and Pricing

- All Vendors will be subject to inspection by the Market Manager prior to selling at the Market.
- Vendors will be asked to remove any products from their displays if deemed by the Market Manager to be of inferior quality. Products that are cosmetically imperfect or very ripe may be sold as "seconds" and must be labeled appropriately.
- Product pricing should be conducted in a manner that protects overall stability and friendly competition at the market.

3.3 Live Animals

- No live animals may be sold or given away at the Market.

4. Amendments

- The Market Rules may be amended only with the approval of a majority of the FMC and will be presented to the City Council for final approval.