



## SFC Farmers' Market Rules

Adopted March 5, 2019

1. The SFC Farmers' Market is limited to farmer/vendors, associate vendors, and prepared food vendors, who are bona-fide growers, and craftspersons, and producers of homemade products, who are members of Stamford Farmers' Cooperative, and who are approved by the SFC Board of Directors.

2. The primary goal of the SFC Farmers' Market is to promote member farmers, therefore it is generally\* against the policy of the market for any member farmer to purchase items and resell them at the market. Only products which are produced by a member or his/her household or business on land owned or rented by that member may be sold or given away by the vendor.

\*Vendors may represent and sell another's product with written permission of the producer and the Board as long as the product is produced within the SFC service/member area by an SFC member farmer.

3. The following is a list of products that may be sold at the Market:

- a. Fruits - grown by the vendor.
- b. Vegetables - grown by the vendor.
- c. Meat products - 100% from animals raised and/or finished by the vendor.
- d. Fish - raised by the vendor through aqua culture from fingerlings of no more than 2" in size, or legally caught from the wild
- e. Cider, fruit juice and herb teas - sold in bulk or by the drink by the producer of the fruit or herbs.
- f. Dried fruits and vegetables - only from fruit and vegetables grown and dried by the vendor.
- g. Honey and bee products - produced and bottled/packaged by the vendor.
- h. Preserved and Processed Foods - Jams, preserves, frozen, canned foods, etc. prepared by the vendor from fresh produce from the region. If the produce is grown in the area, the products must use solely local products. If not grown in the area (such as figs) products from outside the area may be used.
- i. Milk - produced from the vendor's own herd
- j. Cheese and other dairy products - preference shall be given to vendors using milk produced by their own herd. Vendors buying milk must do so from small regional sustainable farms which are subject to review by the market.
- k. Eggs - from the vendor's own fowl
- l. Poultry - 100% from birds raised by the vendor from day old chicks.
- m. Grain products - pancake mix, granola and other grain products from grain collected and

blended/mixed by the vendor.

n. Maple Products - processed by the vendor from the vendor's own or rented sugarbush.

o. Baked goods - fresh baked and prepared from scratch by the vendor (no commercially prepared dough mixes, crusts, shells, fillings, or contents). Preference shall be given to vendors using local ingredients purchased directly from the farmer/producer.

p. Field and greenhouse grown plants, flowers, cut flowers and herbs - grown by the vendor from seeds, plugs, dormant roots or bulbs, or cuttings.

q. Animal products - wool, fleece, yarn, feathers, down, and untooled leather produced from animals owned by the vendor. Preference shall be given to vendors who process their own product.

r. Crafts - high quality craft items designed and produced by the vendor, at the discretion of the Board, and as space permits

s. Ready to eat prepared foods - high quality food items prepared by the vendor. Preference shall be given to vendors who use locally grown farm-direct products reflecting seasonable availability.

t. Hay and straw, and feed products - grown/produced by the vendor.

u. Teas, herbs, spices, herbal vinegars - blended/prepared and packaged by the vendor.

Preference shall be given to vendors who grow their own ingredients.

v. Services - at the discretion of the Board, and as space permits

w. Wine and Spirits - bottled locally from local produce.

x. Beer – brewed and bottled locally.

z. Confections/Chocolates - made by the vendor. No commercially prepared mixes, filling or content.

4. Home based vendors of crafts, prepared foods, and baked goods shall be given preference.

5. Vendors may provide free samples to customers as long as long as this is done in a safe and sanitary manner in compliance with Department of Health requirements.

6. A market and product category, once approved by the Board, will generally be pre-approved for the following season provided it is marked properly on the member's application. However, the Board reserves the right to deny an item or product at their discretion.

7. For vegetables and small fruits, rental of local land is permitted. Rental of orchards is permitted by members who are in full control and supervision of the individual steps of production with a majority of their own machinery and labor. Any other arrangement must be submitted in writing with the member's application for action by the Board. A map must be submitted with the application, clearly indicating the rental land, and the name and address of the owner, along with documentation of a land rental or use agreement.

8. Consumer inquiries regarding pesticide use and other farm practices must be answered factually without misleading information. The Board and Market Manager reserve the right to limit vendor's claims regarding farm practices that cannot be verified.

9. Farmers must complete the SFC Farmers' Market Application. Farmers and vendors must have the necessary licenses and insurance for the products they sell and must certify this fact in writing to

SFC. A completed application and a certificate of Insurance listing Stamford Farmers' Cooperative as an additional insured must be submitted to SFC at least two weeks prior to the first market.

10. Farmers are to provide a refundable \$30 entry fee to SFC two weeks prior to the first market. The fee will be refunded at the end of the season if the farmer or his/her representative attends 13 out of the 15 market during the season (fruit and vegetable farmers will not be held to this if their crop season is shorter than 13 weeks). The check should be made out to SFC, it will be held and returned to you at the end of the season if attendance requirements are met.

11. Farmers/vendors are encouraged to join the Facebook Group SFC Farmers' Market for information, announcements, changes, to ask questions, and generally to help support a cohesive group.

12. SFC will provide space for farmers/vendors to hang a sign at the store or display on their table.

13. SFC will offer the use of its SNAP Benefits EBT reader to facilitate customer transactions with farmers who do not have the card reader technology. If you are interested in this, please let us know. Attending a training session is required to accept SNAP benefits.

14. SFC is open to becoming a participating FMNP Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon market, however 3 bona fide vegetable farmers must be market members and must be willing to participate in the FMNP program in order for the market to qualify. If you are interested in this please let us know. Attending a training session and completing a short application and crop plan are required in order to accept FMNP coupons.

15. These rules are subject to modification as needed to ensure the smooth running of the market and its ability to meet its goals. Questions of clarification and suggestions for improvement are always welcome.

16. A participating farmer/vendor meeting will be held prior to the start of the season to review the market rules and answer questions. A wrap up meeting will be held at the end of the season to discuss what went well and what could be improved, and make any changes for the upcoming season.