

Farmers Market Food Safety Guidelines

1. Vendors producing or manufacturing food products must submit a copy of their manufacturing permit from the TX Dept. of State Health Services. Home bakers must submit a copy of their food handler's certificate approved by the TX Dept. of State Health Services. Taxable goods require a copy of their sales tax permit.
2. Egg producers selling only ungraded eggs from their own flock may be exempt from the TX Dept. of Agriculture, but must be permitted by the State Health Services. Eggs must be stored under refrigeration at 45 degrees or less. Vendors must provide a thermometer to verify temp. Eggs must be labeled as non-graded in new cartons/no previously used cartons.
3. Meat vendors must submit a copy of their State or USDA licensing to ensure that meat is properly processed under State and/or USDA regulations. Specific labeling requirements must also be met ex: safe food handling, name and address of distributor or packer etc. Meat must be stored frozen in a mechanical freezer at 0 degrees or less.
4. Milk vendors must submit a copy of state milk licensing. Fluid milk, dry milks and milk products complying with Grade-A standards shall be obtained and pasteurized.
5. Vendors selling foods requiring temperature control must have equipment onsite in order to maintain proper food temperatures. All refrigeration or freezer units must have thermometers on hand for verifying temperatures.
6. All cottage food products must meet Texas Cottage Law labeling requirements to include the following information: the name and physical address of the cottage food production operation; the common or usual name of the product; if a food is made with a major food allergen, such as eggs, nuts, soy, peanuts, milk or wheat that ingredient must be listed on the label; as well as the following statement: "This food is made in a home kitchen and is not inspected by the Department of State Health Services or a local health department." Labels must be legible.
7. All cottage food products must be packaged in a manner that prevents product contamination.
8. The following cottage food products may be sold:
 - a. Baked goods requiring no refrigeration, i.e. cakes, cookies, pastries. (No custards/cream fillings)
 - b. Candy (including chocolate, chocolate-dipped pretzels, chocolate-dipped Oreos, etc.)
 - c. Coated and uncoated nuts
 - d. Unroasted nut butters, fruit butters
 - e. Canned jams and jellies
 - f. Fruit pies (including pecan pie)
 - g. Dehydrated fruits/vegetables includes dried beans
 - h. Popcorn and popcorn snacks
 - i. Cereal, *including* granola
 - j. Dry mixes
 - k. Vinegar, pickles, mustard
 - l. Roasted coffee or dry tea
 - m. Dried herbs or herb mixes
 - n. Baked goods requiring refrigeration may not be sold under the cottage food law, i.e. cream pies, meringue pies, cheesecakes, pumpkin pies, chocolate covered fruit
9. Vendors wishing to sample foods must adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. Provide hand wash station consisting of: continuous flow spigot for clean potable water, antibacterial liquid soap and paper towels, container to catch dirty water from hand washing.
 - b. Three step ware washing station to be available to wash, rinse, and sanitize utensils.
 - c. Trash can to capture cups/utensils.
 - d. Served while wearing clean or disposable plastic gloves.
 - e. Observing proper hand washing techniques immediately before preparing samples
 - f. Produce intended for sampling is washed in potable water to remove soil or other visible material
 - g. All potentially hazardous food maintained at 41°F or below should be disposed of w/in 2 hrs. Public time as health control will not be allowed for TCS foods prepackaged/wrapped or otherwise made to be sold whole to the public.
 - h. Utensil and cutting surfaces used for cutting samples are smooth, non-absorbent, and easily cleaned or disposed of.
10. RFM vendors are subject to an inspection by the city health inspector.

Rockwall Farmers Market (RFM) Rules

Vendor Eligibility/Vendor Responsibilities:

1. Vendor applications are subject to review and approval; submission of an application does not guarantee participation. Only approved vendors are allowed to sell at the RFM.

2. APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT REQUIRED CERTIFICATES ATTACHED.

3. Vendors maintaining food or agricultural retail operations will be considered on a case by case basis.

4. Vendors at the RFM shall agree to the terms of these rules. By signing the agreement, applicant acknowledges the rules of the RFM.

5. **Vendors are required to attend the market options they have checked on their application.**

By signing this application you are acknowledging the following: If you miss more than 3 markets, you will be subject to removal and the application review committee shall contact the next vendor on the waitlist.

6. Vendors shall supply all their own materials and containers for customer sales as well as set up; such as canopies, tables and chairs.

7. No firearms, alcoholic beverages or drugs will be allowed at the RFM.

8. Vendors must vacate the market by 1PM. Vendors shall not use public trash receptacles for disposal of produce boxes or unsold produce. If a market representative has to clean your space at the close of the market, vendor may not be able to return to the market. Vendors cannot leave items on premise.

9. **After unloading, vendors shall park in one of the designated public parking areas. Vendors may not utilize on street parking during the Market.**

10. **Parking Restrictions: Parking will not be allowed around the courthouse area or the lot off of Goliad Street across from the 7-11. This includes all vendor and volunteer vehicles. Please view map on website to access the correct parking areas. SAVE PARKING FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS.**

Market Operation:

1. The Friends of Downtown are responsible for the operation of the market and for enforcing the rules of the market. All vendors are expected to adhere to the market rules.

2. Violation of any provision of the market rules shall be a material breach and default by the vendor. The market representative shall reserve the right to cancel any vendor's participation at any time if and when the vendor shall be found to be in violation of any market rule or eligibility requirements.

3. **Designation and allocation of spaces at the market are determined by the market coordinator and may be changed at any time if the market coordinator deems it necessary.**

4. Hours of operation are Saturday from 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM. The Opening Market, the first Saturday of May will be open until 2:00 PM. Vendors must arrive at the market no later than 7:30 AM to allow enough time to set up and be ready to greet customers for the opening of the market at 8:00 AM.
5. As a safety precaution, no vehicles shall be allowed in the Farmers Market area after 7:30AM.
6. Vendors shall clean up their areas at the end of each market and take unused produce and boxes away with them. Vendors are responsible for keeping their space and all areas around their space clean/free of any conditions that might potentially result in or cause injury to vendors and other persons or parties at all times during market hours. Sidewalks must be free and clear of debris/cardboard boxes. Cords stretched across pathways must be taped down securely.
7. RFM will be opened rain or shine. If rain is forecasted, vendors will use their own discretion regarding attendance. If vendor does not show it will not be applied to (3) allowed absences.

Products Sold at the Market:

1. All products sold at the RFM shall be grown, raised, and/or produced directly by the vendor within the Texas regions, with the exception of approved full disclosure of selling another's product with the name, contact info, and location of origin.
2. Vendors shall sell only items the committee has approved for sale. Vendors wishing to add an item(s) to their list must first gain approval from the committee by submitting an amended application.
3. Vendors shall determine the pricing and display of their products.
4. All vendors must abide by the health code and restrictions, rules & laws of the City, County, and State of Texas.
5. No potentially hazardous produce or product will be permitted for sale.
6. All items intended for human consumption shall be kept off the ground at all times and be in safe and sound condition. The seller shall be solely responsible for damages resulting from the sale of unsafe or unsound goods.