



# CHARLESTON FARMERS MARKET

*Produced and directed by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs*

## 2024 VENDOR MANUAL



Celebrating the Lowcountry's Bounty of  
Fresh Local Produce & Homegrown Creativity!

**Main Contact:**

Harrison R. Chapman, Farmers Market Manager  
Main Office: (843) 724-7305 & Mobile: (843) 509-3619  
FarmersMarket@Charleston-sc.gov  
www.CharlestonFarmersMarket.com

**OFFICE/MAILING**

*Office of Cultural Affairs  
75 Calhoun Street, Suite 3800  
Charleston, SC 29401*

**EVENT**

*Marion Square  
329 Meeting Street  
Charleston, SC 29403*

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Established in 1989 through a collaboration between Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service and the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA), the Charleston Farmers Market (CFM) is a cherished institution. Managed in partnership with the City's Parks Department and Special Events Committee, the CFM has garnered acclaim over the years. Notable accolades include the Three Sisters Award from the Charleston Save the City Committee in 2005 and being ranked among the Top 10 Best Farmers Markets in the nation by Travel + Leisure Magazine and the New York Times in 2008. Additionally, it has been consistently recognized by Charleston City Paper's "Best of" edition as the "Best Attraction," "Best Outdoor Event," "Best Place to Buy Local Produce," or "Best Farmers Market" annually.

Nestled in Marion Square, a historic hub in downtown Charleston, the CFM operates every Saturday from April to November, from 8 am to 2 pm. During December, it extends its offerings with markets held on Saturdays and Sundays for the Annual Holiday Market. Dedicated to supporting Lowcountry farmers and growers, the CFM provides a diverse array of local produce, plants, herbs, and fresh-cut flowers. Moreover, visitors can enjoy breakfast and lunch options, artisanal food products, crafts, community group engagements, live music, and various activities. Serving as a vibrant community nexus, the CFM brings together locals and tourists alike, fostering a shared appreciation for fresh local produce and regional creativity.

## **2024 Schedule**

Saturdays, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Regular Season:** Saturdays, April 13<sup>th</sup> – November 23<sup>rd</sup>

## **HOLIDAY MARKET**

Saturdays & Sundays, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

Vendors must complete an additional Application & Participation Agreement for all markets, which are not included in the Regular Season, while no additional application fee is required. At CFM Management's election, CFM may allow non-Regular Season vendors to participate in Holiday Markets based on the types of products they offer for sale. Hours of operation are subject to change at the discretion of CFM Management. Changes in hours of operation typically arise in the event of an "Extreme Weather Warning" from NOAA's (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association) National Weather Service Charleston. See Weather Related Cancellations (*pg. 24*).

The CFM is committed to creating a diverse marketplace with the highest quality, locally produced products available. All applicants must reside and operate within CFM Boundaries (*pg. 25*), while priority acceptance is given to Charleston County, followed by Berkeley, Colleton and Dorchester County. The City of Charleston reserves the right to make onsite visits to business establishments and may require proof of residence and/or business location. Although the CFM will not be bound to apply a particular set of selection criteria in every instance and must reserve unconditional discretion to accept or deny any applicant, CFM Management considers many factors while evaluating each submission and invites all eligible vendors to apply.

## **ABOUT CFM**

### **VISION**

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The CFM is dedicated to the support and advocacy of Lowcountry farmers and growers and offers a variety of local produce, plants, herbs and fresh cut flowers as well as breakfast and lunch vendors. The CFM allows for:

- Local food growers and producers prosper by finding local marketplaces for their products.
- Every resident has access to high quality nutritious, locally grown food.
- Residents understand the value of strengthening the local economy by purchasing locally grown food.
- Sustainable farming and local food production expansion as more people choose to enter these professions.
- To grow, nourish and inspire the community.

The CFM is playing a central role in creating this food system and in fostering an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable community.

### **MISSION**

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To provide a venue where local farmers, producers, artisans and crafters come together to offer a variety of fresh, local produce, prepared foods and locally crafted products directly to the consumer. The CFM encourages direct communication between local producers and consumers and fosters social gathering and community building.

### **WE VALUE**

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- Nourishment: food is the heart and soul of our lives. Access to fresh, nutritious food is a foundation for health and human dignity.
- Sustainability: our market and operation model social, ecological and economic sustainability
- Relationships: positive, personal connections and cooperation underlie our contributions to the community
- Excellence: by combining innovation and industriousness, we can achieve our best while making CFM fun, functional and beautiful
- Organizational Strength: maintaining financial strength and the integrity of our organization's practices allows us to offer personal and professional fulfillment to our employees and valuable support to our vendors.

### **MARKET ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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Market Advisory Committee (MAC) constitutes a panel of interested volunteers and vendors who recommend vendor program priorities and who serve as a sounding board for program initiatives, as informed advocates for the CFM. The MAC assists market management in reviewing CFM rules and procedures. The MAC provides a channel for CFM vendors to have their voices heard by members of the MAC for consideration and vetting to CFM Management.

## **GENERAL ACCEPTANCE**

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In order of priority

### **1. Agriculture**

- Farmer & Grower Vendors have priority over all other vendors.
- Priority is given to regional Farmer & Grower Vendors who bring product to market that is 100% grown and harvested on farmland east of I-95, within SC borders for which they own/lease and operate.
- Farmer & Grower Vendors who use environmentally responsible and sustainable growing, breeding, raising and harvesting methods will also have priority.
- Priority is given to other vendors displaying a more abundant use of local ingredients in prepared food or artisanal crafts.

### **2. Product Quality**

- Consistently high product quality
- Products should be grown or processed using traditional and/or sustainable techniques.
- No genetically modified seeds may be sold at the CFM at any time.
- Clean and attractive displays

### **3. Conduct, Compliance & Customer Service**

- History of compliance with CFM rules and federal, state, and local regulations
- Positive vendors conduct toward customers, fellow vendors, CFM staff and volunteers.
- Courteous, strong customer service and knowledgeable staff
- Timely submission of application, licenses and other CFM correspondence
- Acceptable billing and payment history according to Fees & Payment Procedures

### **4. Product Balancing**

- Products that are unique or unusual
- Products not already represented in the CFM.
- Products not readily available through national distribution channels
- Products not included in an application may be restricted from the CFM to avoid duplication.

### **5. Record as a previous CFM Vendor**

- Number of years vendor has sold at CFM.
- Number of CFM markets at which vendor has sold.
- Attendance record
- History of compliance with CFM rules

## **PRODUCTS NOT ACCEPTED**

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The CFM is committed to showcasing locally grown produce and high-quality crafts designed and fabricated by local artisans. The CFM will not accept the following items:

- There is no opportunity for re-sale of manufactured food products. The vendor must have prepared the food in a SC DHEC approved kitchen within CFM Boundaries (*pg. 25*)
- Applicants living outside of CFM Boundaries (*pg. 25*)
- Vendors cannot be part of a national franchise or corporate chain of businesses.
- Locally produced packaged food products with broad national distribution
- Food Concessionaire Vendors cannot duplicate an existing retail location that the vendor owns, operates, manages, or participates in directly and/or indirectly; exceptions are made for bakers whose ovens are at the vendor's bakery and for vendors who own a restaurant and use the restaurant's commercial kitchen to prepare food items for sale at the CFM. All kitchens must meet SC DHEC requirements.
- Food Concessionaire Vendors preparing food items intended for immediate or on-site consumption at CFM shall not duplicate the food items sold by the vendor at the restaurant they own, operate, manage, or participate in directly and/or indirectly.

## **CERTIFICATES, LICENSES & PERMITS**

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Vendors are responsible for complying with local, state and federal requirements governing the sale and production of all products and for acquiring the necessary permits/licenses necessary for operating their business. The following is a list of common permits and licenses required; however, it is not exhaustive.

- **At the time of application**, vendors must provide clear, written information about production methods, which can be available to CFM Management or any consumer upon request.
- **At the time of application**, vendors must provide proof of residency and proof of business address, which must be within CFM Boundaries (*pg. 25*)
- **All Food Concessions, Bakers, Processors, Seafood, and those offering samples** must abide by all regulations enforced by SCDHEC (Department for Health & Environmental Control and have a SCDHEC approved kitchen and/or certification with the SCDA (South Carolina Department of Agriculture).
- **SC DHEC:** (803) 898-3432 – Email: [info@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:info@dhec.sc.gov)
- **SCDA:** (803)734-2190 – Email: [ACuller@scda.sc.gov](mailto:ACuller@scda.sc.gov)

Upon acceptance, **all vendors** must provide the following.

- Current Year City of Charleston Business License:
  - Licensing Clerk & Revenue Collections Office: (843) 724-3711
    - 2 George Street, Suite 1700 – Charleston, SC 29401
    - <https://www.charleston-sc.gov/133/Revenue-Collections-Division>
- South Carolina Retail License
  - SCDOR (Department of Revenue): (803) 898-5000
  - <https://dor.sc.gov/tax-index/registration/Pages/licensing-retail-license.aspx>
- **Proof of General Liability Insurance** of no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence with both of the following parties listed as additionally insured; City of Charleston (80 Broad Street, Charleston, SC 29401) and Board of Field Officers of the Fourth Brigade (287 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401). Vendors are responsible for obtaining insurance coverage on their own and must provide proof in accordance with these requirements to CFM Management prior to participating.

## DEFINITION OF BUSINESS TYPES

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*CFM does not offer exclusive rights to any one vendor to sell any one product. CFM customers benefit from having a choice. CFM Management reserves the right to deny entry to same or similar products if it is believed the number of vendors offering the product is excessive. A vendor is the owner/operator of a business entity approved to sell specific products during a specific duration by CFM Management, and the City of Charleston.* A vendor shall not operate under a franchise agreement. A vendor shall not share their assigned location with other entities. All products must be grown, raised, produced, caught or gathered by the vendor within CFM Boundaries and must be approved prior to operating. A **Rotating Vendor** is only allowed to operate on days assigned to them by CFM Management i.e. 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.

1. **Active Farmer & Grower (F/G)** is a person actively involved and invested in the planting, growing and harvesting of agricultural products on owned, rented, leased or share-cropped land. This definition includes ranchers and dairymen. If an F/G Vendor farms on land(s) they rent or lease, they must provide Market Management with a copy of the signed lease agreement(s).
  - a. **Farm Products** are grown or raised by the F/G Vendor upon land located within CFM boundaries that the farmer controls through ownership, lease, rental or other legal agreement. These products are fresh fruits and vegetables, nuts, honey, eggs, herbs, flowers, meat, seafood and dairy products.
  - b. **Meat & Dairy Products** must be labeled as processed food products in accordance with SCDA and SC DHEC regulations for processed, packaged, and potentially hazardous food products.
  - c. **Seafood:** edible marine fish and shellfish raised or caught by the F/G Vendor in SC waters.
  - d. **Processed Farm Products** are farm products made from raw ingredients, a majority of which are grown and produced by the farmer. These products include all farm products that must in some way be processed *including cheeses, dairy, meats, viticulture, dried fruits and vegetables, juices, jam or other processed agricultural and livestock food products*. Some processed farm products are not processed by the farmer but are processed products which the vendor made from raw ingredients purchased from a local farmer which have been cooked, canned, dried, baked, preserved or otherwise significantly treated. **CFM recognizes the distinction between processed farm products made by the farmer and those products that are purchased and then processed.**
  - e. **Nursery Products** are grown or raised by the F/G upon land they control through ownership, lease, rental or other legal agreement. Nursery products are fresh cut or potted flowers, bedding plants, seeds, perennials, annuals, trees or shrubs that are propagated from seed, cuttings, bulbs, plugs or plant divisions. Nursery product vendors require a nursery license issued by SCDA, which must be submitted prior to participating.
2. **Food Concessionaire** is a person who sells food that is freshly made and available for immediate consumption on-site or packaged food for future consumption.
  - a. **Bakery/Chocolatier** bakes breads, pastries, desserts or makes chocolates.
  - b. **Cheese Maker** is a person who makes and sells cheese that contains milk sourced from a local farmer or other entity who produces the local milk for the Cheese Maker.
3. **Artisan & Crafter Vendor** products must be designed, fabricated and hand-crafted by the artisan vendor and its employee(s). Acceptance is based on originality of design, materials and production techniques. All crafts must be of excellent workmanship both in quality and design. The items must show evidence of manual skills obtainable through a significant period of dedication and experience. All vendors are solely responsible for obtaining proper permissions and licenses from third parties whose rights may be violated or infringed upon. To use any logo, trademark or copyrighted items, a vendor must have written permission from the owner of the logo, trademark or copyright and provide the CFM with a copy of the written permission from the owner of the logo, trademark or copyright with their application or at the request of CFM Management.

## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

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CFM Management reserves the right to deny a vendor's application, prohibit anyone from selling at the CFM or prohibit any product from being sold at the CFM. Vendors and their employees must comply with all CFM Rules & Regulations and On-Site Operation Guidelines. CFM Management reserves the right to promulgate new and/or modify existing CFM Rules & Regulations and On-Site Operation Guidelines during any Regular Season, Holiday Market or Piccolo Spoleto Market, if necessary.

### **APPLICATION & PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

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- All prospective vendors must read the current CFM Vendor Manual in full, complete and sign a CFM Vendor Application & Participation Agreement form.
- Application Fee: All returning and new applicants must submit a non-refundable application fee of \$20.
- Vendor selling privileges are for a specified period and limited to the current season.
- All accepted vendors are required to attend a vendor meeting, which will be scheduled upon acceptance.

### **PRODUCT DECLARATION**

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- Vendors must include a full list of products they intend to sell with their application. Vendors are only permitted to sell products that have been approved by CFM Management
- If a vendor wishes to add a product to their original list, a written request must be submitted to CFM Management for approval within a *minimum of two weeks* prior to selling. CFM is a producer-only market with no re-sale products permitted. Buying products from another business, then reselling those products is not permitted at the CFM and may result in disciplinary action. (Exception: 75/25 rule for F/G Vendors)
- Artisan & Crafter Vendors are not permitted to sell food or farm products.
- CFM Management reserves the right to be the sole t-shirt, sweatshirt, and poster vendor.
- Vendors shall not use the name of an existing restaurant or business at CFM that the vendor owns, operates, manages and/or participates in directly and/or indirectly.

### **ABSENCES**

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Vendors are expected to operate at each CFM that is assigned to them by CFM Management. Seasonal vendors are exceptions and must be approved by CFM Management prior to vending. *Vendors are allowed 3* absences during a season. More than 3 absences may result in the loss of vending privileges. Vendors are financially responsible for fees at all scheduled markets for which they operate. The owner of the business is encouraged to be present at the CFM at least 75% of the CFM season; the other 25% may be a designated employee; however, this practice is discouraged.

### **BOOTH EQUIPMENT**

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- Vendors must supply their own tables, chairs, trash receptacles and signage.
- Canopies (measure 10' x 10' or 8' x 8'): Artisan & Crafter vendors are responsible for providing their own white canopy. White canopies are not provided by CFM Management.
- Weights: All canopies or other booth covers are required to have 25lb weights, (no cement blocks) on each canopy leg. Weights must be approved by CFM Management as they should not be hazardous to others.
- Clean & Safe: vendors are responsible for always keeping their space clean and attractive and must clean up their space prior to departing, including sweeping up any debris and removing all trash from Marion Square. No dumping; ice, liquids, food waste, sewage. See "Appendix II for expectations for compliance with SC DHEC Regulations regarding handwashing stations.



## **VENDOR CONDUCT & COURTESY**

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- Vendors are not allowed to operate handheld devices of any kind while driving in Marion Square.
- The speed limit in Marion Square is 10 mph; speeding will result in immediate disciplinary action.
- Vendors must turn all motored vehicles to the off position while stationery to reduce hazardous fumes.
- Vendors **are not permitted** to use the following techniques while operating at the CFM: hawking, calling attention to products in a loud, repetitive public manner, selling products in an aggressive manner, standing in a pedestrian right-of-way, or conducting business outside of their assigned space.
- **Threatening behavior, vandalism and the use or threats of violence will constitute immediate removal from the CFM.** Threats, threatening behavior or acts of violence against any participants while on-site, at offices or by electronic means will not be tolerated. Any person who engages in this behavior shall be removed from the premises as quickly as safety permits and must await disciplinary measures prior to operating at a following CFM. After the investigation, CFM Management will respond appropriately. Possible outcomes include, but are not limited to; suspension, termination of any business relationship, and the pursuit of criminal prosecution of the person or persons involved.
- Any CFM Vendor who is convicted of a crime during the CFM season must report their conviction to CFM Management. In the event of such a conviction, CFM Management and City of Charleston at its sole election reserves the right to expel a vendor considering this criminal conviction.
- Vendors and their employees must behave courteously and always conduct themselves professionally. Vendors are not allowed to publicly disparage other vendors or their products; this behavior is grounds for immediate expulsion and other disciplinary actions may be taken.
- Vendors must ensure that all people working at their booths are familiar and knowledgeable of all products and adhere to all CFM **Rules & Regulations** and **On-Site Operation Guidelines**.
- Individuals under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult while operating a booth at the CFM.

## **DAMAGE TO CITY OF CHARLESTON PROPERTY**

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The City of Charleston shall be reimbursed for any damage caused by a vendor, to CFM or City of Charleston property. This requirement includes, but is not limited to damage to; sidewalks, grounds, vehicles, fencing, canopies, and any other property owned by or provided by the City of Charleston.

## **CUSTOMER QUERIES**

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Vendors are discouraged from selling at below-cost pricing, thus undercutting potential sales of other vendors. All items for sale must be clearly marked with their retail price. Prices may be posted on the product with an individual sign or posted as a list of prices on a large sign or board. Questions regarding production techniques must be answered factually and knowledgeably. False packaging and incorporating the exposure of the best products at the top of a package with inferior product(s) packed below will be considered fraudulent and a violation of **CFM Rules & Regulations**.

## **STAYING GREEN**

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Vendors are required to use environmentally responsible and sustainable methods of production and packaging. Operations throughout the City of Charleston, (and the Town of James Island, and Charleston County unincorporated areas) are now required, as of January 1, 2020, to eliminate use of single-use plastic carryout and merchandise bags, as well as certain plastic carryout and food packaging items.

More Info about **Single-Use Plastic Regulations**: <https://www.charleston-sc.gov/plastic>

## **VENDOR IDENTIFICATION**

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Each vendor's booth must prominently display a sign which clearly identifies the business by the name listed on their application. Signs must be professional in appearance. Signs must be in place *during hours of operation*. All descriptions of products must be accurate and truthful. Signs are subject to approval by CFM Management.

## **ELECTRICITY**

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All electrical equipment must be approved by CFM Management. Vendors who require access to electricity are responsible for providing outdoor extension cords as well as an adequate number of mats or runners which must cover all portions of the cord that lie in areas used as pedestrian right-of-ways. CFM Management is unable to guarantee electricity to all vendors and a specific number of outlets will be assigned upon acceptance.

## **LOADING PROCEDURE**

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All vendors must off-load all equipment, products and supplies either in or behind their assigned booth location, which must be clear of all vehicular traffic routes. Vendors are not allowed to set up their booth until they have driven their vehicle outside of Marion Square and parked in an approved location. At the close of each CFM, vendors must completely disassemble their booth prior to driving into Marion Square for loading purposes. More details are in the **CFM On-Site Operation Guidelines** (pg. 11).

## **POSSESSION OF WEAPONS**

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Firearms, knives or other objects used as a weapon by a vendor, his or her employee(s), or agent, constitute a violation of **CFM Rules & Regulations** and will constitute immediate and permanent expulsion from the CFM.

## **SOLICITATION**

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Solicitation for products, services, or charitable contributions, not specifically addressed as a CFM commodity, or by vendors other than CFM vendors, will not be permitted, except with special permission granted by the City of Charleston and CFM Management. All Not-for-Profit Organizations must complete a current Not-for-Profit Application & Participation Agreement which can be found on the CFM website under "Applications".

## **NO SMOKING**

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Marion Square is designated as a "No Smoking Area." Vendors and their employees are prohibited from smoking and/or vaping in Marion Square during CFM hours of operation and designated loading times, which also includes the sidewalk along the perimeter of Marion Square.

## **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

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The selling or consumption of alcoholic beverages is always prohibited and may be grounds for immediate and permanent expulsion from the CFM.

## **ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES**

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The selling, distribution, or possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia is prohibited and will be grounds for immediate and permanent expulsion from the CFM.

# ON-SITE OPERATION GUIDELINES

Marion Square

329 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403

## LOADING PROCEDURE

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- Set-up begins no earlier than 5:00 AM. Although vehicles cannot be parked in Marion Square unless permission has been provided by CFM Management, approved vendors are permitted to drive into Marion Square for loading purposes, ONLY.
- Traffic flow for driving in Marion Square:
  - a. Vendors located on **King Street Plaza** must enter the park using the King-Tobacco St. egress.
  - b. Vendors located on **Tobacco Street** must enter the park using the Meeting-Tobacco St. egress.
- Vendors must off-load their equipment, products and supplies in or behind their assigned booth location, which must be clear of all vehicular traffic.
- Vendors must wait to set up their booth until their vehicle is parked outside of Marion Square in an approved location.
- Vehicles must enter Marion Square prior to 7:25 AM and exit by 7:45 AM. If a vendor has not arrived by 7:25 AM and has not notified CFM Management of their late arrival, CFM Management reserves the right to designate their space for another vendor or purpose.
- Late arrivals must load-in from the perimeter of Marion Square given they have prior approval from CFM Management to set up after their designated load-in time.
- Vendors are prohibited from driving on the grass or over a curb unless instructed to do so by CFM Management.
- Vendors are encouraged to park as far away from Marion Square as possible to allow parking for customers. Vendors may park in the Visitor Center Parking Garage (73 Mary Street) and receive a \$5 flat rate parking voucher to be used between the hours of 5:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Vendors must collect a parking voucher from CFM Management prior to 1:00 PM each market day.
- If a vendor sells out of their entire inventory, unless approved by CFM Management, booth disassembly is not permitted until the CFM closes.
- At the close of each CFM, vendors must completely disassemble and pack up their booth prior to driving into Marion Square to load their vehicle. At 2:00 PM, vendors may begin disassembling their booth.
- At the discretion of CFM Management, if a vendor's booth is 100% disassembled and every item is clear of all vehicular traffic, vendors are permitted to drive into Marion Square no earlier than 2:15 PM, unless instructed otherwise by CFM Management or a CPD Officer.

## **BOOTH SETUP & DISPLAY**

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- Vendors using grassy areas for storage are required to set up on a tarp to prevent damage to the grounds.
- Floor mats or runners must cover all electrical cords which cross areas used as pedestrian right-of-ways, which must be provided by the vendor using the electrical cords.
- Canopies must have 25lb weights on each leg which must be approved by CFM Management
- Vendors must keep all belongings clear of pedestrian right-of-ways and must be contained within their assigned location unless given expressed or written permission by CFM Management
- Signage including product prices, vendor identification, and/or product certifications must be clearly displayed and visible to all customers.
- All vendors must have their own trash receptacles for all waste generated by the vendor, which must be removed from Marion Square at the end of each market day.

## **CLEAN & SAFE**

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- Vendors whose products generate waste (e.g. on-premises prepared food vendors and vendors providing samples) must provide a trash receptacle at their booth for all waste produced.
- All vendors must haul their trash away from Marion Square at the end of each CFM, for disposal at their own business or residence.
- **City of Charleston waste receptacles are for public use, ONLY.**
- All vendors must sweep their spaces at the end of each market day and must ensure that all litter and product debris has been removed, including but not limited to; ice, liquids and food; dumping waste or unused food and beverage products in the park is prohibited.

## **ROTATING VENDOR**

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A rotating vendor operates on a schedule less frequent than a full-time vendor and may differ from those of other rotating vendors. A rotating vendor is not a full-time vendor. A rotating vendor is only permitted to operate on days assigned to them by CFM Management. A vendor must indicate on the CFM Application & Participation Agreement form whether they are applying to be a full-time or rotating vendor. Rotating frequency will be determined by CFM Management upon acceptance.

## **VENDOR SPACE**

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Vendors **are not permitted to** sublet their space to others. If a vendor sells their business, the vendor is not permitted to transfer the CFM space to the new owner or any other party. A vendor's space is assigned to them by CFM Management and is subject to change at the discretion of CFM Management at any time and for any reason.

## **ELECTRICITY**

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- 110v electricity is available at the CFM when approved in advance by CFM Management. Vendors must provide their own heavy-duty outdoor extension cords, with an adequate number of mats/runners to cover and reduce the possibility of tripping hazards.
- The CFM highly recommends using battery operated and/or solar power electrical devices.
- Vendors are not permitted to use a generator unless approved by CFM Management, and it must not disturb CFM operations due to volume, size, smell nor location.

## **WATER**

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Vendors have access to a water spigot on two sides of the brick storage building, which is located near the King/Calhoun Street corner of the park. Drinking water is available at various public water fountains and additional water is available for purchase from most Food Concessionaires.

## **ASSIGNED LOCATION**

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Space reservations are held *until 40 minutes prior to the CFM opening*, after which time a vendor's assigned space may be allocated for a different vendor or purpose by CFM Management.

## **ON-SITE VENDOR COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST**

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CFM Management may, without notice, evaluate any vendor while making sure they are following all CFM **Rules & Regulations** and **On-Site Operation Guidelines**.

## **TOOLS TO MOITOR & ENFORCE RULES & REGULATIONS**

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In addition to the list below, CFM Management utilizes the following procedure for disciplinary action: CFM Management is authorized to assign spaces, enforce all **Rules & Regulations** and **On-Site Operation Guidelines**, and issue notices of violation(s). In cases of a serious violation, the disciplinary progression may vary: (Physical violence, verbal abuse, possession of weapons, alcohol or illegal drugs is grounds for immediate and permanent expulsion)

- **First Violation:** Written warning from the City of Charleston to the vendor.
- **Second Violation:** Vendor suspension for one market, which immediately follows the violation.
- **Third Violation:** Expulsion for the remainder of the CFM season.

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1. All CFM Rules & Regulations and On-Site Operation Guidelines are enforced by CFM Management and their designee, all of whom have ultimate on-site authority. Complaints or problems must be directed to CFM Management within one week of when the incident occurred.
  2. If a vendor does not abide by the CFM Rules & Regulations and On-Site Operation Guidelines or comply with federal, state, and local regulations applicable to CFM participation, CFM Management or its designee may take any action deemed appropriate, including assessing fines or barring the vendor from selling at the CFM for that day and any future dates.
  3. CFM Management will regularly evaluate vendors using the On-site Vendor Compliance Checklist.
  4. Violations not included in the On-site Vendor Compliance Checklist may lead to other disciplinary action. If a vendor is issued a violation due to noncompliance, the reason for the violation must be resolved prior to returning to the CFM.
  5. Customer complaints will be forwarded to vendors and kept on file. Complaints may result in disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion from the CFM.
  6. CFM Management reserves the right to visit and inspect a farm, place of business or studio of any vendor and to request any documents verifying the business or employment status of any vendor.
  7. CFM Management reserves the right to make reasonable exceptions to these CFM Rules & Regulations and On-Site Operation Guidelines on a case-by-case basis.

**ON-SITE VENDOR COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST**

**GENERAL**

|  | <b>N/A</b> | <b>Non-Compliant</b> | <b>NOTES</b> |
|--|------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>City of Charleston Business License</b>                 |            |                      |              |
| <b>Clean &amp; Safe Setup</b>                              |            |                      |              |
| <b>Weights: (25lb x each leg)</b>                          |            |                      |              |
| <b>Product Prices Posted</b>                               |            |                      |              |
| <b>Approved Products</b>                                   |            |                      |              |
| <b>SC Retail License</b>                                   |            |                      |              |
| <b>SCDA-RVC / DHEC</b>                                     |            |                      |              |
| <b>Signage: Business Name &amp; Product Labeling</b>       |            |                      |              |
| <b>Trash/Recycling Receptacle</b>                          |            |                      |              |
| <b>Environmentally Acceptable Packaging &amp; Products</b> |            |                      |              |

**FOOD SAFETY**

All Food Concessionaire Vendors must comply with all SC DHEC (South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control) and SCDA (South Carolina Department of Agriculture) rules and regulations. Those found to be in violation must take the necessary action(s) to follow SC DHEC and SCDA prior to returning to operate at the CFM.







## PAYMENT METHODS

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1. **Full Season Advance Payment** (Option Currently Not Available)
  - a. ~~Payment is due in full on or before the first market of the season, which the vendor attends.~~
  - b. ~~Discount: 15%~~
2. **Half Season Advance Payment** (15 Market Maximum Advance Payment)
  - a. Payment due in full on or before the first market of the season, which the vendor attends, while the second payment must be submitted prior to the credits of the first payment being used.
  - b. Discount: 10%
3. If a vendor cancels the remainder of a season, any advance discounts will be forfeited, in the event a refund is issued; See **Cancelations & Refunds** (pg. 18)
4. **Pay online with Credit Card**..... Links will be provided each week a vendor participates.
5. On-site payments must be submitted to CFM Management prior to 1:00 PM on each market day by credit card, check/money order, made payable to; City of Charleston

## FEES & PAYMENT PROCEDURES

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1. **Application Fee \$20:** Due to the level of attention required to process and verify information presented in vendor applications, a non-refundable fee must accompany all applications.
2. **Booth Rental Fees per CFM Day:** (+ \$15 per market for canopy rental, limited availability)
  1. \$30 – Cart Space
  2. \$50 – Farmer Space (canopy provided upon request at no additional charge)
  3. \$45 – 8’ x 8’ Space
  4. \$55 – 10’ x 10’ Space
3. **Late Payment**
  - All vendor fees must be paid in full prior to operating at the CFM each week, and any insufficient funds must be submitted to the CFM prior to 1:00 PM on each market day.
  - Vendors must notify CFM Management *in writing* of any change of mailing address or contact information. Vendors are responsible for any late payment fees which accrue due to a change of address not being communicated to CFM Management, *in writing*.
  - Any unpaid vendor fees following 1:00 PM on each market day will be itemized on an invoice payable upon receipt.
  - A late payment fee of \$10 will be applied to a vendor’s account for failing to submit a vendor fee by 1:00 PM on the corresponding market day. Vendors will be notified by email of any outstanding balance each week, while details of additional fees will be included. The \$10 late payment fee will recur every 7 days until full payment has been received.
  - Vendors with an outstanding balance are not permitted to participate until payment has been submitted in full and confirmed by CFM Management.
4. **Returned Check Policy**

Checks or ACH transactions returned with insufficient funds will be charged a \$25 fee. Vendors are not allowed to operate at the CFM until all fees have been paid in full. The City of Charleston is not responsible for bank fees charged due to a redeposit of a check due to insufficient funds.
5. **Unpaid Fees**

Vendors with an unpaid balance from the previous season will be ineligible to return to the CFM.

## **CANCELATIONS & REFUNDS**

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1. Vendors must submit all cancelations in writing to CFM Management with at least a 48-hour advance notice to be considered eligible to receive a refund. All refunds will be applied in the form of a credit to the following CFM for which the vendor operates.
2. Absent vendors who cancel their space without appropriate or timely notice or by not showing up are not considered eligible to receive a refund.
3. More than three absences may result in the loss of vending privileges and no refund will be due for prepaid fees.
4. Refunded fees will be less any advance discounts.
5. Space reservations will be held until 40 minutes prior to the opening of each CFM. If a vendor arrives later than 40 minutes prior to opening, CFM Management reserves the right to decide whether the vendor will be assigned an available space. In the event of a late arrival, there will be no provision of a refund, should the vendor not be able to operate.
6. If a vendor cancels the remainder of a particular season due to health, lack of business or other extraordinary reason, a refund may be issued according to the CFM's cancellation policy and the discretion of CFM Management.
7. In the event of a market day being canceled and/or closed early for any reason by CFM Management, vendors will be issued a refund of vendor fees if the market day is either canceled in full or closed within 2 hours of opening the market.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

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1. Complaints by a vendor must be submitted in writing to CFM Management within one week of the time an incident occurs and must be submitted in a manner which is not disruptive to CFM.
2. Vendors with concerns regarding other vendor compliance, CFM staff, safety, or policies must complete a Vendor Concern Form and Forms will be available at the CFM Information Booth during CFM hours of operation and within the current year's CFM Vendor Manual.
3. CFM Management will review each Vendor Concern Form and the appropriate vendor will receive a notification with specific instructions for which actions must be taken, while a written response must be submitted by the alleged vendor within two weeks of receiving a notification. Failure to respond within the allotted timeframe will result in a determination that the vendor is in violation of misconduct and must pay all vendor fees prior to operating at a following CFM. CFM Management reserves the right to suspend a participating vendor until the matter has been resolved. **Vendor Concern Form, (pg. 20)**
4. A vendor must appeal any decision made by CFM Management concerning a violation of these rules within 30 days of receiving a notification of a violation. An appeal must be submitted in writing to CFM Management providing the basis for the appeal. Any appeal of a decision by CFM Management will be adjudicated by the Market Advisory Committee and/or the City of Charleston Corporation Counsel.

## PRODUCT CHALLENGE

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1. Product challenges may be made for misrepresentation of product by a vendor. Vendors shall submit a written Product Challenge Form when they believe another vendor is misrepresenting their product and must be submitted within one week of observing the misconduct. CFM Management reserves the right to suspend the sale of an alleged product being misrepresented until the matter has been fully resolved. CFM Vendor **Product Challenge Form**, (pg. 21).
2. A Product Challenge Form must be signed by the person submitting the Product Challenge and must be supported by physical and/or verbal evidence of the offense. The Product Challenge must be submitted within one week of when the violation was observed. Challenges alleging product misrepresentations on occasions outside of this timeframe will not be accepted.
3. Each Product Challenge must be accompanied with a \$50 filing fee, which must be in the form of a check or money order made payable to the City of Charleston. The filing fee is returned to the challenger if the claim is verified.
4. The vendor receiving a Product Challenge must submit a response in writing within 2 weeks of receiving a notification. Failure by the vendor to submit a response in writing within 2 weeks of receiving a notification will result in the vendor being prohibited from returning to operate at the CFM until the Product Challenge is resolved. Failure to respond within the allotted timeframe will result in a determination that the challenge is valid.
5. CFM Management, if necessary, will conduct a site visit in a timely manner to decide on the Product Challenge. If CFM Management deems it necessary, others will be consulted to reach a decision.
6. Product Challenge Forms are available at the CFM Information Booth during CFM hours of operation and can also be found in the current Vendor Manual. Because of their sensitive nature, they must be returned directly to the CFM Manager or at the Office of Cultural Affairs within one week of when the misrepresentation was observed.
7. If the vendor is found to be in violation, the vendor will be fined, suspended, and/or removed from the CFM at the discretion of CFM Management and/or other authorized City of Charleston personnel.
8. A vendor must appeal any decision made by CFM Management concerning the violation of these rules within 30 days of receiving a notification. An appeal must be submitted in writing to CFM Management providing the basis for the appeal. Any appeal of a decision by CFM Management will be adjudicated by the Market Advisory Committee.

**Charleston Farmers Market**  
**Vendor Concern Form**

75 Calhoun Street, Suite 3800  
Charleston, SC 29401  
(P) 843.724.7309 & (F) 843.720.3967  
ChapmanH@charleston-sc.gov

CFM vendors with concerns about CFM operations, vendor policies, or vendor compliance with CFM Rules & Regulations must submit this Vendor Concern Form within one week of the CFM during which the concern of an alleged CFM violation arises. To the extent authorized by law, CFM Management will not disclose the concerned vendor's name to third parties.

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Originator's Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Originator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Originator's Contact Information**

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vendor Concern.** Please use the current 2020 CFM Vendor Manual to reference the rule number or policy which best applies to your concern:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date and approximate time at which alleged violation occurred:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please state the specifics of the situation in question. Be sure to provide all evidence that supports your concern: (Use a separate sheet of paper if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Signed*

*Date*

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| For Market Use Only: | Notes: |
| Date Rec'd: _____    |        |
| By: _____            |        |

**Charleston Farmers Market**

**Product Challenge Form**

75 Calhoun Street, Suite 3800  
Charleston, SC 29401

(P) 843.724.7309 & (F) 843.720.3967  
ChapmanH@charleston-sc.gov

Vendors must submit this form when they believe another vendor is misrepresenting his or her product. A \$50 filing fee must accompany this Product Challenge. This fee will be returned to the challenger if the claim is verified. Please submit this form directly to CFM Management at the CFM or within one week of the CFM during which the alleged violation occurred. To the extent authorized by law, CFM Management will not disclose the originator of the CFM Vendor Product Challenge Form to third parties.

Name of the alleged Vendor and/or Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Product(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date & Approximate Time of Alleged Misconduct: \_\_\_\_\_

Please state the specifics of your observation. Provide all supporting evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Product Challengers Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Sign*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| For Market Use Only: | Notes: |
| Date Rec'd: _____    |        |
| By: _____            |        |
| Fee Rec'd: _____     |        |

**FARMER & GROWER RULES & REGULATIONS**  
(IN ADDITION TO GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS)

- The CFM is a producer-only market. Exceptions are noted during the non-harvest seasons outlined in the **CFM Rules & Regulations**; produce must originate within the SSAWG designated states including; NC, SC, VA, GA, FL, AL, TN, WV, KY & MS. Produce grown outside of this region is not allowed to be purchased and resold at the CFM at any time.
- Geographical boundaries for a vendor to be considered eligible to participate in the CFM are East of I-95 to the Atlantic Ocean & within SC borders, with preference given to Farmer & Grower(F/G) Vendors operating in Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester & Berkeley Counties.
- CFM F/G Vendors must be involved in either full-time or part-time agriculture. A F/G Vendor is one who grows produce from seed propagation, plugs or established tree crop orchards and harvests it for sale. Individuals who solely buy & resell agriculture produce are not considered eligible F/G Vendors & are therefore excluded from participating in the CFM.
- The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA), in cooperation with Clemson University Extension Services, will determine eligibility. Scheduled field site visits will be conducted for all participants & site inspection & document verification will be conducted throughout the season.
- Seafood vendors are included within the F/G Vendor category. There is no resale of seafood; all seafood must be harvested by the F/G Vendor holding a SC Commercial Boat License & sold by the fisherman or an immediate family member. F/G Vendors selling seafood must be in accordance with all rules & regulations enforced by SC DHEC, SCDA & DNR.
- Value-added products such as, but not limited to; jams, honey & sauces may be sold by a F/G Vendor & must be approved in advance by CFM Management. All products must be produced by the eligible F/G Vendor, or an immediate family member & must be in accordance with all rules & regulations enforced by SCDHEC, SCDA and DNR.
- **The 75/25 Percent Rule IS in effect during the two Lowcountry harvesting periods, while a great variety of locally grown produce can be grown & harvested: May 1 - July 15; Sept. 1 – Nov. 30.** During these designated times, 75% of all produce offered for sale must be grown on the vendor's farm; F/G Vendors are permitted to purchase & resell a maximum of 25%, which must be Certified SC Grown.
- **The 75/25 Percent Rule IS NOT in effect from April 1 - 30; July 16 - Aug. 31; Dec. 1 - 31.** During these designated times, produce sold at the CFM, which is not grown on the vendor's farm must originate within the SSAWG region & must be labeled in accordance with all state & federal regulations. CFM Management reserves the right to question the origin of any produce being sold at the CFM & to decide on whether the F/G Vendor is allowed to continue the sale of the product in question.
- F/G Vendors must label all produce intended for resale with farm name and city of origin. All labels must be clearly visible to the customer & the F/G Vendor must be able to provide proof of origin to CFM Management upon request at any time.
- Products can only be labeled as organic if the farm operation has been Certified Organic, and signage must be displayed during hours of operation. However, F/G Vendors may label produce with descriptions such as "Naturally Grown" or "Chemical Free" if the claims are not a misrepresentation of the products and/or methods used during production.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### INFORMATION BOOTH

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The CFM Information Booth is typically located near the corner of King and Tobacco Streets, near the entertainment stage, and operates each market day to conduct business with vendors and to answer questions during regular hours of operation. First Aid and general information about the area may also be found at the CFM Information booth in addition to a limited selection of merchandise available for purchase.

### VENDOR SPACE

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- A *vendor* is an owner/operator of a business entity approved to sell in Marion Square by the City of Charleston, only during CFM hours of operation.
- Selling space rented and assigned to vendors in increments of: (Cart: 6' x 8'), (8' x 8') or (10' x 10'), unless otherwise noted due to extenuating circumstances.
- Vendors shall not sublet their space to other individuals and businesses. Prepaid fees are non-transferable to other CFM vendors. If a vendor sells his or her business, they must cease doing business at the CFM for the remainder of the season.

### RESTROOMS

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Public restrooms are in the public parking garage on the west side of King Street with access from King Street (399 King Street). Portable restrooms will be located within the perimeter of Marion Square and will be open to the public during hours of operation and designated loading times.

### PET/ANIMAL POLICY

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Vendors are not permitted to bring a pet/animal to the CFM; exception is made for those with a Certified Service Animal which is legally defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, 2010.

We ask all vendors to review the pet policies to be aware if a customer brings a pet to the CFM. If customers choose to bring a pet, we ask them to abide by the following rules to make a pet's visit to the CFM an enjoyable and safe experience for all:

- Pets must be always kept on a manageable leash and by the owner's side.
- Pets must be kept away from produce, plants and other food products.
- Be considerate—not everyone loves animals, and some people are allergic to them.
- Pet owners must clean up all waste produced by their pet(s). Waste bags are located at designated locations throughout Marion Square
- CFM Management reserves the right to request that owners remove pets from the CFM.

### VENDOR ROSTER PUBLICATION

---

CFM supports an open policy regarding publishing a vendor roster. The roster is posted on the CFM website and individual names released upon inquiry by the press or potential customers or pursuant to SC Freedom of Information Act request. Vendors must inform CFM staff in the event they do not want specific information published. A vendor roster will not be shared or sold by the CFM to prospective markets or competitors for the purpose of soliciting vendors. Vendor information will be listed in various CFM materials such as, but not limited to, brochure and website; [www.charlestonfarmersmarket.com](http://www.charlestonfarmersmarket.com).

## **WEATHER RELATED CANCELATIONS**

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**The CFM is open Rain or Shine.** However, since the CFM is an outdoor venue, CFM Management reserves the right to close the CFM (with or without prior notification) if it is determined that severe weather conditions could compromise the safety of our participants. Please note the following information that might cause CFM Management to cancel.

- An “Extreme Weather Warning” is issued from NOAA’s (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association) National Weather Service.
- If an “Extreme Weather Warning” is issued and a vendor decides to cancel, a 48-hour advance notice is unnecessary, and the vendor will not be charged.
- Notice of CFM cancelations will be announced as soon as a decision has been finalized and will either be by phone, email, and/or in person on-site.
- In the event of a market day being canceled and/or closed early by CFM Management, vendors will be issued a refund of vendor fees, in the form of a credit toward the following market, if the market day is either canceled in full or closed within 2 hours of opening.

## **NOT-FOR-PROFIT & COMMUNITY BOOTHS**

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The City of Charleston is proud to offer limited space at the CFM as a resource to other community-based Not-for-Profit Organizations. No sales are permitted from community booths. Priority is given to locally based organizations with a focus on agriculture, health and/or wellness. Terms and conditions for use of these spaces and on-site operation guidelines are outlined in the Not-For Profit application, which can be obtained from Market Management.

## **FIELDS-TO-FAMILIES & MASTER GARDENER**

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The City of Charleston works with local social service agencies to establish the gleaning of food contributions at the close of each scheduled CFM. These agencies are a great resource for distributing unsold products to the local community. Each organization has preprinted receipts to provide donors with a receipt for tax purposes. Some vendors take the extra step and put out a labeled box for customers to purchase produce to contribute to this cause. Master Gardener is in attendance to assist with gardening questions and other agricultural inquiries.

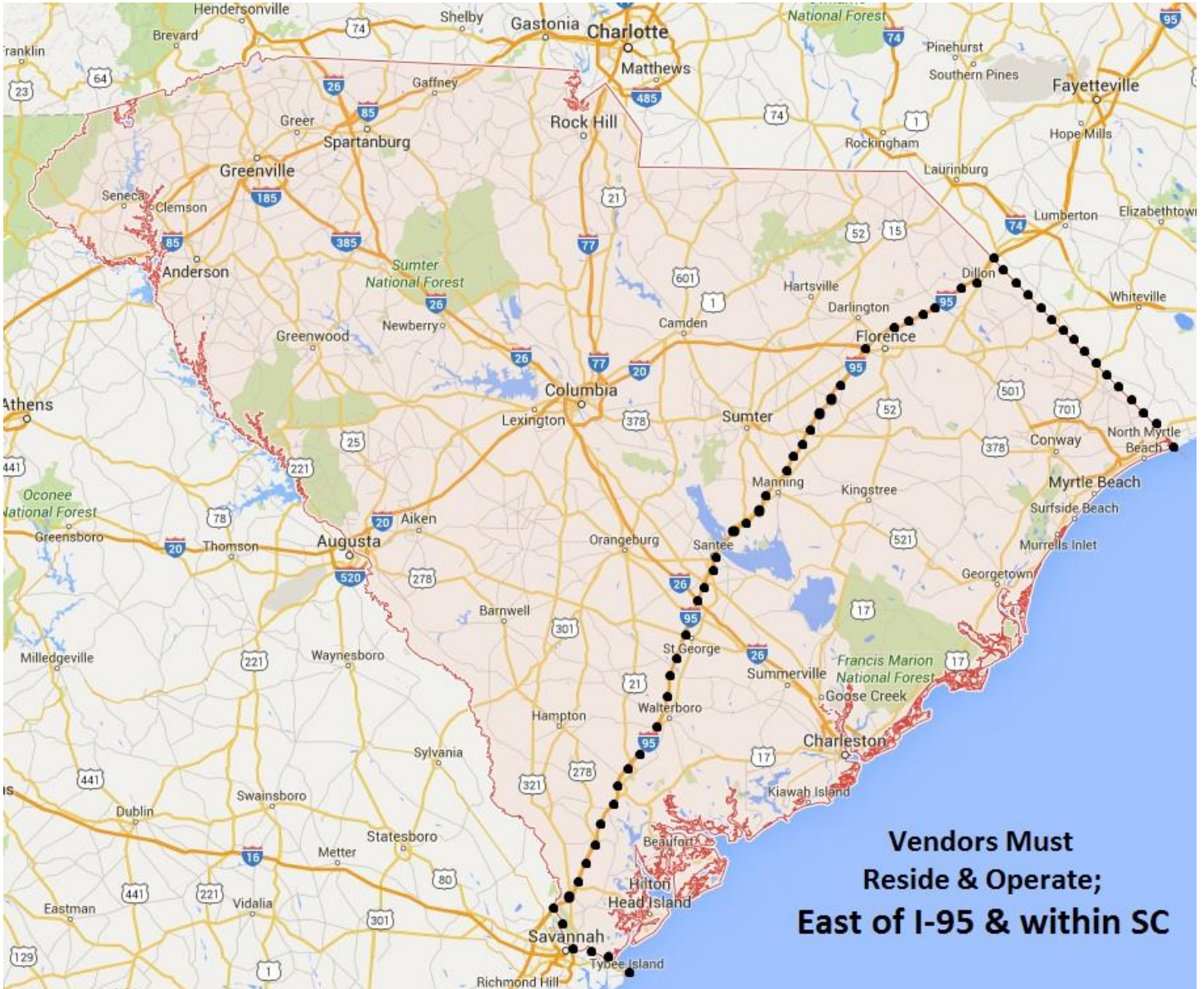
## **MUSICIANS**

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Live music provides enjoyable, family-friendly entertainment, creates a festive atmosphere, and enhances the community’s experience. Tables and chairs are provided as market goers enjoy a break from shopping to sit and relax or to catch up with friends and neighbors. The current Performer Application is available on the CFM website for those interested in applying to perform or upon request from CFM Management.



# GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARY



## APPENDIX I

### What to Bring

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*Careful planning is essential to your success. Make a checklist! Examples of items to include:*

- ✓ Stall structure: tables, tablecloth, racks, shelves.
- ✓ First Aid Kit.
- ✓ Display containers for your products.
- ✓ Bags for products sold.
- ✓ Cash box and bank (be ready to make change)
- ✓ Licensed scale \*Farmers/Growers
- ✓ Hand washing station \*Food Vendors serving Potentially Hazardous Foods
- ✓ Miscellaneous display items; chalk, markers, pens, paper, scissors, tape, blank price tags.
- ✓ Check out items: pencils, pens, calculator, sales record/receipt book, notepad, bags, boxes, flats.
- ✓ Waste receptacle, broom, dustpan \*Vendors are responsible for all trash generated from their booth.
- ✓ Signs and extra photos of products and production process. Individual product names and prices alongside items—how the item is sold (by weight, piece, quantity)—highlight different varieties and product characteristics such as sweet, spicy, bitter as well as storage or preparation tips.
- ✓ Signage extras: recipes, how-to guides, seasonality information, new item, product information and origin
- ✓ Information about your farm, CSA or studio, promotional materials, business cards
- ✓ Personal comfort items: weather gear, gloves, hats, rainwear.
- ✓ Your customer service personality—a **big smile is your best asset. Stand and greet those showing interest in your product and make eye contact when introducing yourself as the owner.**

### Merchandising 101

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**Build Brand Loyalty.** Create an identity for yourself. Make your business name and location clear to customers. Provide a description of your business including location, acres, history, crops, and growing/production methods. Try displaying this information on a poster and including pictures and have a flyer or business card to distribute to customers. Take advantage of the opportunity to educate shoppers about how things are produced as it will add value for each consumer.

**Train employees!** Business owners are responsible for all their employees. Make sure they are knowledgeable of all products and business. Consistency in salespeople builds relationships with repeat customers.

**Provide samples.** Let your customers taste and feel the difference! Sampling can significantly increase sales. Ask customers if they have ever tried a specific item. Make sure you follow all guidelines for food safety detailed in Appendix II within this manual.

**Supply recipes and information.** Find recipes that are simple and contain a few ingredients that can be found at your stand or other parts of the Farmers Market.

**Start an email list.** Let your loyal customers sign up for a mailing list so you can inform them of special opportunities, and locations they can find you or your product.

**Use your personality** and expertise as a merchandising tool to build and strengthen your customer base.

**Use social media** to inform or remind your customers/followers of special product offerings.



## Retail Food Establishment Regulation 61-25

Revised: July of 2014

### Chapter 9 – Standards for Additional Retail Food Establishment Operations 9-11 South Carolina Farmers Markets, Seasonal Series & Remote Services

This standard shall apply to the service of food and the requirements of food vendors participating in SC Farmers Markets, Seasonal Series, Remote Service Operations, or other events approved by the Department.

#### (A) Definitions.

(1) **Community-based farmers market** means a market sponsored by a community or governmental organization either having been Certified by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture as a SC Certified Farmer’s Market or a farmers market that meets the definition of the Farmers Market Coalition which states “A farmers market operates multiple times per year and is organized for the purpose of facilitating personal connections that create mutual benefits for local farmers, shoppers and communities and implements rule or guidelines of operation that ensure that the farmers market consists principally of farms selling directly to the public products that the farms have produced.”

(2) **Seasonal series** means a regularly occurring event sponsored by a community or governmental organization for promoting local business, culture or other local specialties.

(3) **Remote service operation** means a permitted retail food establishment providing food to individual consumers at an indoor location by food employees of the retail food establishment who maintain control of the food service.

#### (B) General.

(1) Retail food establishments at a seasonal series or community-based farmers market or remote service shall comply with all applicable sections of this regulation except as outlined in this standard.

(2) The Department may prohibit the distribution of certain time/temperature control for safety foods, and may modify specific requirements for physical facilities when, in the opinion of the Department, no health hazard will result.

(3) Permitted retail food establishments may be authorized by the Department to cook and serve food to the public at community farmers markets and/or seasonal series only two (2) days per week during one continuous period not to exceed six (6) hours.

(4) Community-based farmers market and seasonal series shall designate the days of the week food vendors are allowed to operate.

(5) Roadside produce stands, and flea markets are not defined as a community-based farmers’ market or seasonal series, and this standard shall not apply to those locations.

#### (C) Employees.

(1) Retail food establishment employees shall not contact exposed, ready-to-eat-food with their bare hands and shall use suitable utensils such as deli tissue, spatulas, tongs, single-use gloves, or dispensing utensils.

(2) Personal clothing and belongings shall be stored in a designated place away from food preparation, food service, dry storage areas, utensils and single-use article storage, and utensil washing areas.

**(D) Food.**

(1) Preparation of bulk food, including washing, slicing, peeling, and cutting, shall occur at the permitted retail food establishment.

(2) All food items shall be protected from contamination during transportation, storage, cooking, display, and service.

(3) All food vendors shall prepare, hold and serve food according to all applicable sections of Chapter 3, Food.

(4) Time/temperature for safety foods that have been cooked or are in hot holding at any point during the daily operating hours shall be discarded at the end of the day.

(5) Condiments shall be protected from contamination by being kept in dispensers that are designed to provide protection or offered in individual packages.

(6) Ice shall be obtained from an approved source, in closed single-service bags or approved covered containers and shall be protected from contamination.

(7) Ice used as a coolant for foods shall not be used for edible ice.

(8) Each retail food establishment shall have at least one temperature measuring device for checking temperatures of food that meets the following requirements:

(a) Able to be calibrated; and

(c) Appropriate for the food density being checked.

(9) Food shall be kept covered except during times of continuous serving or display.

(10) Covers or lids shall not be removed other than for monitoring, stirring, or adding additional ingredients.

**(E) Construction.**

(1) Food preparation areas shall be provided with overhead protection and have adequate barriers (e.g., tables or equipment) to prevent access to the area from the public.

(2) Equipment and utensils shall arrive clean, ready to use, and in sufficient quantities to conduct the activity.

(3) Equipment and utensils shall only be cleaned at the permitted retail food establishment.

(4) Only single-service articles shall be provided for use by the consumer.

**(F) Handwashing Sinks.**

(1) Each food vendor shall have at least one (1) handwashing facility located at the individual vendor location that may be either:

(a) A portable handsink that provides water under pressure or

(b) A container of water with a spigot and catch bucket

(2) All handwashing facilities must have adequate water dispensing storage capacity to meet the demand for handwashing. The wastewater storage capacity must be larger than the water storage container.

(3) Handwashing facilities must include soap and disposable towels.

(4) Gloves and/or hand sanitizers shall not be allowed as a substitute for handwashing facilities.

**(G) Water System.**

- (1) Drinking water hoses shall be made from food grade materials and shall be a different color from hoses used for sewage.
- (2) Drinking water hoses shall be capped or covered when not in use and shall be stored separately from sewage hoses.
- (3) When attached to a drinking water system the hose shall be equipped with an approved backflow prevention device.

**(H) Sewage Retention and Refuse Removal.**

- (1) Sewage that is not directly discharged into an approved sewage system shall be kept in closed containers adequate in number and capacity to prevent spillage and must be discharged into an approved sewage disposal system as often as needed.
- (2) All sewage lines shall be connected to sewage tanks with watertight seals.
- (3) Used cooking oil shall be disposed of in an approved manner.
- (4) Adequate toilet facilities shall be provided.
- (5) Adequate trash cans, as deemed necessary by the Department shall be provided to support the retail food establishment.

**(I) Specific Exemptions.**

Seasonal series or community-based farmers markets that provide foods pursuant to 8-301.12(A)(11), (12), (19) and (20) are exempt from authorization of this standard.

**(J) Authorization.**

- (1) No retail food establishment, or mobile food unit may serve time/temperature control for safety foods at a seasonal series or community-based farmers market unless the sponsoring entity obtains authorization from the Department. Pre-approval is not required for remote service operations.
- (2) The sponsoring entity of a seasonal series or community-based farmers market shall appoint an Event Coordinator as a point of contact.
- (3) Any sponsoring entity that operates or proposes to operate a seasonal series or community-based farmers market where time/temperature control for safety foods will be served by retail food establishments shall apply for authorization from the Department. The following information shall be submitted:
  - (a) The Event Coordinator name and contact information; and
  - (b) The one day of the week and hours of operation for food service; and
  - (c) A list of retail food establishments, with contact information, that will operate at the event.
- (4) Each retail food establishment at a seasonal series or community-based farmers market shall be authorized by the Department prior to serving food to the public at the event.
- (5) The Department may require a sponsoring entity or a retail food establishment to submit information sufficient to determine if the definition and requirements of this standard or regulation are met. This information may include, but is not limited to, information defining the community group, governmental organization, SC Certified Farmer's Market certification, association to Farmers Market Coalition, event schedule(s), hours of food vendor operations, vendor list and foods specific to those vendors, and vendor contact information.
- (6) When the Department determines that a sponsoring entity or a retail food establishment has violated applicable provisions of this standard or regulation, the Department may issue a written notice directing any or all retail food establishment vendors to cease operations until the violations are corrected as determined by the Department.