

WEST ASHLEY FARMERS MARKET



2024 VENDOR MANUAL

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ACKERMAN PARK

*55 Sycamore Ave
Charleston, SC 29407*



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The West Ashley Farmers Market (WAFM) will resume activity at Ackerman Park, located at 55 Sycamore Avenue with an initial schedule of Wednesday afternoon markets running April through October with market hours from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm (October: closure shifts to 6:30 pm) with one additional market on Sunday, November 24th from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm for our Annual Thanksgiving Market. Information about additional market dates and related special events will be announced as the market season proceeds.

The market is dedicated to the support and advocacy of Lowcountry farmers and growers and will offer a variety of local produce, plants, herbs as well as food concessionaires, community groups, live entertainment and a variety of activities. Attracting locals and visitors alike, the market offers a place for community connection, bringing together people from all parts of the Lowcountry and beyond.

2024 WAFM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 3:00 – 7:00 PM

April 24th – October 30th

(October: closure shifts to 6:30 PM)

Thanksgiving Market: Sunday, November 24th from 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Hours of operation are subject to change at the discretion of Market Management. Adjustments to hours of operation typically arises in the event of an “Extreme Weather Warning” issued by NOAA’s (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association) National Weather Service Charleston.

See Weather Related Cancellations (*pg. 14*).

The market is committed to creating a diverse marketplace with the highest quality, locally produced products available. All applicants must reside and operate within the market’s geographical boundaries (*pg. 14*), while priority acceptance is given to Charleston County. Proof of Business Address will be required to include one or all of the following: Lease agreement or Title to Real Estate (Deed) and/or Property Taxes. Additionally, all vendors must have all required paperwork prior to operating, which includes, but not limited to; current year City of Charleston Business License, SC Retail License, Proof of General Liability Insurance with the proper additionally insured parties listed (City of Charleston; 80 Broad Street, Charleston, SC 29401), SCDHEC Certificate and/or the appropriate SCDA-RVC’s. The City of Charleston reserves the right to make onsite visits to business establishments and reserves the right to require additional proof of residency or business location. Although the market will not be bound to apply a particular set of selection criteria in every instance and must reserve unconditional discretion to accept or deny an applicant, Management considers many factors while evaluating each submission and invites all eligible vendors to apply.

About

VISION

The market is dedicated to the support and advocacy of Lowcountry farmers and growers and offers a variety of local produce, plants, herbs as well as food concessions. The market 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 market is playing a central role in creating this food system and in fostering an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable community.

MISSION

To provide a venue where local farmers, producers and food concessionaires can come together to offer a variety of fresh, local produce and regional fare directly to the consumer. The market encourages direct communication between consumers and producers, fostering social gathering and community development.

WE VALUE

- **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 the market 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

The 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 WAFM. The MAC assists Market Management in reviewing rules and procedures. The MAC provides a channel for WAFM vendors to have their voices heard by members of the MAC for consideration and vetting to Market Management.

GENERAL ACCEPTANCE

In order of priority

1. Agriculture

- Farmer & Grower Vendors have priority over all other vendors.
- Priority is given to Farmer & Grower Vendors who bring products to market that is 100% grown and harvested on farmland, located within the market's Geographical Boundaries, which they own/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.

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 market at any time.
- Clean and attractive displays

3. Conduct, Compliance & Customer Service

- History of compliance with market rules and federal, state, and local regulations
- Positive vendors conduct toward customers, fellow vendors, market staff and volunteers.
- Courteous, strong customer service and knowledgeable staff
- Timely submission of application, licenses and other market 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 market.
- Product not readily available through national distribution channels
- Products not included in an application may be restricted from the market to avoid duplication.

5. Record as a previous vendor

- Attendance record
- History of compliance with market rules

PRODUCTS NOT ACCEPTED

The market is committed to showcasing locally grown produce. The market 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 the market's Geographical Boundaries (*pg. 14*)
- Applicants living outside of the market's Geographical Boundaries (*pg. 14*)
- Vendors cannot be part of a national franchise or a 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 WAFM. All kitchens must meet SC DHEC requirements.
- Food Concessionaire Vendors preparing food items intended for immediate or on-site consumption at the WAFM 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

Vendors are responsible for complying with all City, State and Federal requirements governing the sale and production of all products and for acquiring the necessary permits and 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 market 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 the market's Geographical Boundaries (*pg. 14*)
- **All Food Concessionaires, Processors, Seafood, and those offering samples** must abide by all regulations enforced by SC DHEC (Department for Health & Environmental Control) and have a SC DHEC approved kitchen, and/or the proper SCDA-RVC (South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Registration Verification Certificate) for select packaged products. For more information regarding DHEC and/or SCDA, use the contacts listed below.
- **SC DHEC:** (803) 898-3432 – Email: info@dhec.sc.gov
- **SCDA:** (803)734-2190 – Email: ACuller@scda.sc.gov

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

- Current City of Charleston Business License: (843) 724-3711
 - Licensing Clerk & Revenue Collections Office
 - 2 George Street, Suite 1700 – Charleston, SC 29401
- SC Retail License: (803) 898-5000
 - SC Department of Revenue
 - SC Department of Revenue Sales Tax Return – Columbia, SC 29214-0101
- **Proof of General Liability Insurance** of no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence with the City of Charleston named as an additionally insured party; City of Charleston – 80 Broad Street, Charleston, SC 29401. Vendors are responsible for obtaining insurance coverage on their own and provide proof in accordance with these requirements to Market Management prior to operating.

DEFINITIONS OF VENDOR BUSINESS TYPES

The market **does not** offer exclusive rights to any one vendor to sell any one product. Customers benefit from having a choice. 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 market Management.** 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 the market's boundaries and must be approved prior to operating. A **Rotating Vendor** is only allowed to operate on days assigned to them by Market Management.

1. **Active Farmer & Grower (F/G)** is a person actively involved and invested in the planting, growing and harvesting of agricultural product on owned, rented, leased or share-cropped land. This definition includes ranchers and dairymen. If a 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 the market's geographical boundaries that the farmer controls through ownership, lease, rental or other legal agreement. These products are fresh fruits/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 SCDHEC 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. **The market 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 vendor 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 vending at the market.
2. **Food Concessionaire** is a vendor 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.

RULES & REGULATIONS

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

APPLICATION & PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

- All prospective vendors must read the current Vendor Manual in full, complete and sign a Vendor Application & Participation Agreement.
- Application fee: All applicants must submit a non-refundable application fee of \$20. (Check/Money Order)
- 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.
- Acceptance into the 2022 Season, in no way guarantees acceptance into a future season.

PRODUCT DECLARATION

- 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 Market Management.
- This is a producer-only market with no re-sale products permitted. Buying products from another business and then reselling those products is not permitted at the market and can result in disciplinary action. (Exception: 75/25 rule for F/G Vendors)
- Market 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

Vendors are expected to operate at each market that is assigned to them by Market Management. Vendors are financially responsible for all fees at markets for which they operate. The owner of the business is encouraged to be present at the market at least 75% of the regular season; the other 25% may be a designated employee; however, this practice is discouraged.

BOOTH SETUP

- Vendors must supply their own tables, chairs, trash receptacles and signage.
- Canopies (measure; 10' x 10' or 8' x 8'), will be provided by Market Management. A specific quantity of canopies will be determined at the discretion of Market Management and any number of canopies exceeding one will require an additional rental fee.
- Weights for securing each canopy leg will be provided by Market Management; although each vendor is responsible for making sure their canopy is properly secured and must notify Market Management if weights were not provided and attached properly. Weights must remain on each canopy leg for the entire duration in which the canopy is setup.
- Clean & Safe: vendors are responsible for always keeping their spaces clean and attractive and must clean up their space prior to departing, including sweeping up any debris and removing all trash from Ackerman Park and the adjacent property. No dumping; ice, liquids, food waste, sewage, etc.
- See "Appendix I for expectations for compliance with SC DHEC Regulations regarding handwashing stations.

VENDOR CONDUCT & COURTESY

- Vendors are not allowed to operate handheld devices of any kind while driving in Ackerman Park and the adjacent parking lot.
- The speed limit in Ackerman Park is 10 mph; speeding will result in immediate disciplinary action.
- Vendors must turn all motored vehicles off while stationary to reduce inhalation of hazardous fumes.
- Vendors **are not permitted** to use the following techniques while operating at the market: 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 market.** 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 market. After the investigation, 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 Vendor who is convicted of a crime during the season must report their conviction to Management. In the event of such a conviction, 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 **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 market.

DAMAGE TO CITY PROPERTY

The City of Charleston shall be reimbursed for any damage caused by a vendor to 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

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 **Rules & Regulations**.

STAYING GREEN

Vendors are required to use environmentally responsible and sustainable methods of production and packaging. These practices are recognized during the annual vendor review.

VENDOR IDENTIFICATION

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 Market Management.

ELECTRICITY

All electrical equipment must be approved by Market 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. Access to electricity within Ackerman Park is limited and any request to power electrical equipment must be approved. Market Management is unable to guarantee electricity to all vendors. A specific number of outlets will be assigned upon acceptance.

TRASH

Vendors are responsible for collecting and removing all trash and other waste, which their booth generates and shall not dispose of it at a neighboring business's receptacle/dumpster.

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

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

SOLICITATION

Solicitation for products, services, or charitable contributions, not specifically addressed as a market commodity, or by vendors other than market vendors, will not be permitted, except with special permission granted by the City of Charleston and Market Management.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

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

ILLEGAL DRUGS

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

ROTATING VENDOR

A rotating vendor operates on a schedule less frequent than full time vendors 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 Market Management. A vendor must signify on the Application & Participation Agreement as to whether they are applying to be a full-time or rotating vendor. Rotating frequency will be determined by Market Management upon acceptance.

VENDOR SPACE

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

PAYMENT METHODS

1. ~~Full Season Advanced payment (Not Available in 2024 Season)~~
 - a. ~~Payment due in full on or before the first market of the season~~
 - b. ~~Discount: 20%~~
2. ~~1/2 Season Advanced payment (Not Available during 2024 Season)~~
 - a. ~~Payment due in full on or before the first market of each period~~
 - 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.~~
4. **Pay online with a Credit Card**..... Links will be provided upon acceptance.
5. On-site payments must be submitted to market management prior to the start of each market day and must be submitted by Credit Card, check or money order; made payable to; City of Charleston. (Cash is not accepted for vendor fees, at any time)

FEES & PAYMENT PROCEDURES

1. **Application Fee of \$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. **Vendor Fees per day:**
 1. \$25 – Cart Space (No Canopy & Approx. 6’ x 4’)
 2. \$35 – One canopy, provided and setup by the City of Charleston
 3. \$35 – Food Truck (No access to electricity; generators permitted)
3. **Late Payment**
 - All vendor fees must be paid in full prior to operating at the market each week.
 - Vendors must notify Market 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 Market Management *in writing*.
 - A late payment fee of \$10 will be assessed to a vendor’s account on the following business day, while recurring every 7 days.
 - All vendor fees, including late payment fees must be paid in full prior to returning to operate.
4. **Returned Check Policy**

Checks or ACH transactions returned for insufficient funds will be charged a \$25 fee. Vendors are not allowed to operate at the market until all fees have been paid in full and the violation must have been remedied prior to the vendor returning. The City of Charleston is not responsible for bank fees charged due to a redeposit of bounced checks.

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

- The WAFM is a producer-only market. Exceptions are noted during the non-harvest periods outlined in the **Rules & Regulations**; produce must originate within the SSAWG (Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group) region, including; NC, SC, VA, GA, FL, AL, TN, WV, KY and MS. Produce grown outside of the SSAWG region is not allowed to be purchased and resold at the WAFM at any time.
- Vendors must reside and operate within the designated geographical boundaries to be considered eligible to participate East of I-95, within SC borders, while preference is given to Farmer & Grower (F/G) Vendors operating in Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester and Berkeley Counties.
- WAFM 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 and resell agriculture produce are not considered eligible F/G Vendors and are therefore excluded from participating in the WAFM.
- Market Management, in cooperation with Clemson University Extension Services, will determine eligibility. Scheduled site inspections and document verification may 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 and sold by the fisherman or an immediate family member. F/G Vendors selling seafood must comply with all rules and regulations enforced by SC DHEC, SCDA and DNR.
- Value-added products such as, but not limited to; jams, jellies, honey and sauces may be sold by an F/G Vendor and must be approved in advance by Market Management. All products must be produced by the eligible F/G Vendor or an immediate family member and must be in accordance with all rules and regulations enforced by SCDHEC, SCDA and DNR.

***HARVEST PERIODS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE & WILL BE DETERMINED BY MARKET MANAGEMENT**

- **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 and harvested: May 1 - July 15 and Sept. 1 – Nov. 30.** During these designated times, 75% of all produce offered for sale at the WAFM must be grown on the vendor's farm and during the time the 75/25 Percent Rule is in effect, F/G Vendors are permitted to purchase and resell a maximum of 25% Certified SC Grown produce that is not grown on the vendor's farm.
- **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 WAFM, which is not grown on the vendor's farm must originate within the SSAWG region and must be labeled in accordance with all state and federal regulations. Market Management reserves the right to question the origin of any produce being sold at the WAFM and 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, which has been purchased for resale with specific details of its origin. All labels must be clearly visible to the customer and the F/G Vendor must be able to provide proof of origin to Market Management upon request at any time.
- Products can only be labeled as organic if the farm operation has been designated as Certified Organic, and the current signage must be displayed in a conspicuous place at the vendor's booth 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 the production process.

General Information

Information Booth

Location may vary. The Information Booth operates in each market and has someone to answer questions during hours of operation. The Information Booth is intended to assist vendors and community members with specific questions and for Market Management to conduct business with vendors.

Pet/Animal Policy

Vendors are not permitted to bring a pet/animal; 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 market. If customers do choose to bring a pet, we ask them to abide by the following rules to make a pet's visit to the market an enjoyable and safe experience for all:

- Pets must be always kept on a short 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 the dog run area within Ackerman Park
- No pets are allowed on the athletic playing fields at any time.
- Management reserves the right to request that owners remove pets from the market.

Vendor Roster Publication

The market 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 Market Management in the event they do not want specific information published. A vendor roster will not be shared or sold by Market Management to prospective markets or competitors for the purpose of soliciting vendors. Vendor information will be listed in various market materials such as, but not limited to, brochures and websites.

NOT-FOR-PROFIT & COMMUNITY BOOTHS

The City of Charleston is proud to offer limited space at the WAFM 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

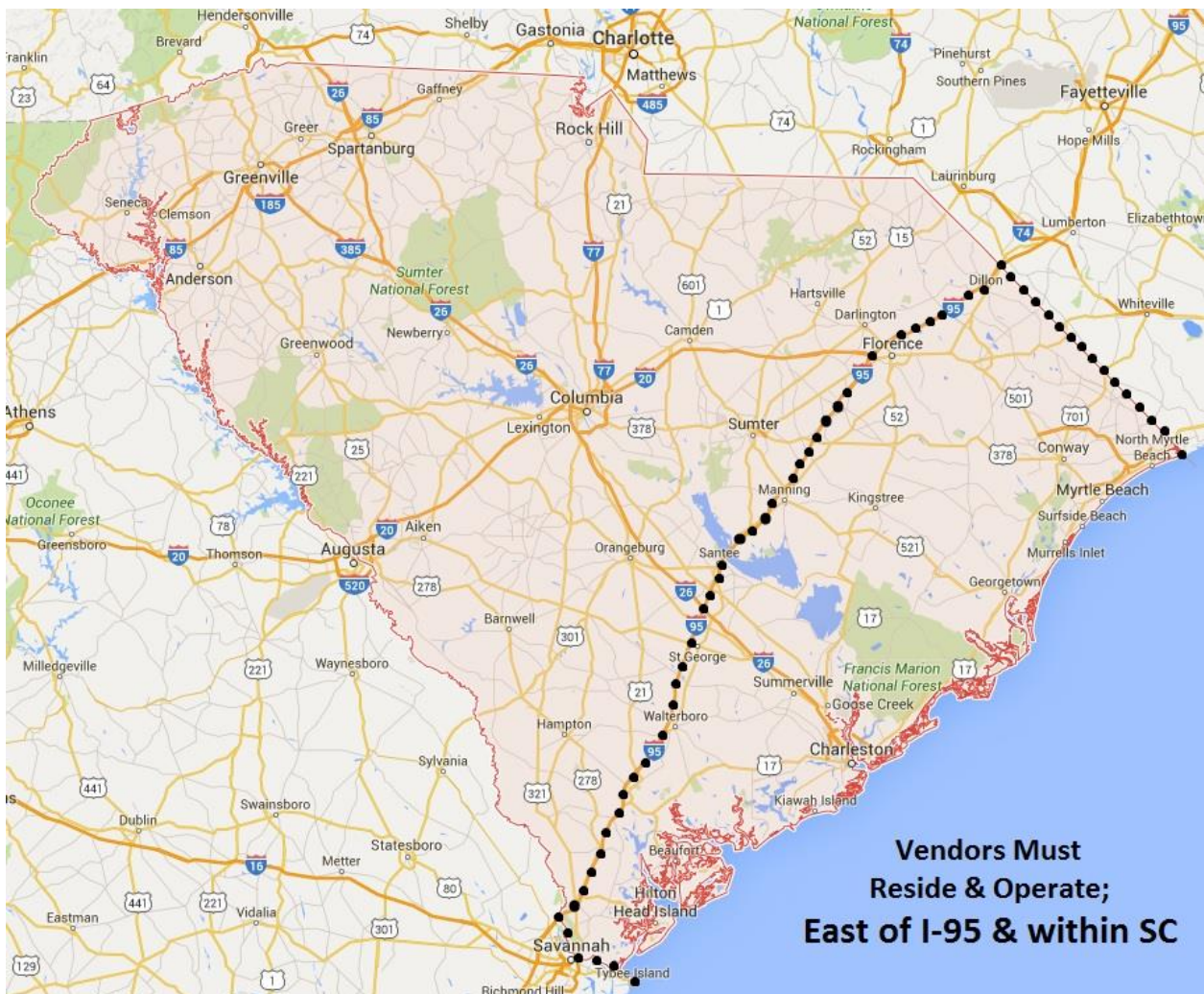
The City of Charleston works with local social service agencies to establish the gleaning of food contributions at the close of each scheduled WAFM. These agencies are a great resource for distributing unsold products to the local community. Each organization has preprinted receipts to provide donors 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.

Weather Related Cancellations

The market is open Rain or Shine. However, since the market is an outdoor venue, Market Management reserves the right to close (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 Market Management to cancel the market:

- An “Extreme Weather Warning” is issued by 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 notice is unnecessary, and the vendor will not be charged.
- Notice of cancellations will be announced as soon as a decision has been finalized and will either be by phone and/or email.
- In the event of a market day being cancelled by Management, vendors will be issued a refund of vendor fees if the market day is canceled in full.

Geographical Boundaries



Appendix I



Retail Food Establishment Regulation 61-25 Revised: 2019

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.