



Vendor FAQ

Why do I have to pay an Annual Vendor Fee?

The Annual Vendor Fee reserves/guarantees your assigned booth space for the entire Market Season and funds The Market's operational expenses throughout the year including marketing/advertising, on-site activities to attract more Market visitors, etc.

What benefits do I receive in exchange for my Annual Vendor Fee?

- Market Manager on site every Saturday during set-up, Market Hours of Operation, & break-down
- Booth location on Iotla Street in Historic Downtown Franklin approximately 30 Saturdays per year (May-Nov)
- Weekly digital advertising to promote the Farmers Market
- Various print advertising throughout Market Season to promote the Farmers Market
- Ability to accept SNAP/EBT payments without incurring any processing fees or other additional expenses
- Opportunity to participate in Market Food Programs, including Double SNAP and Produce Purchase Guarantee
- Live music on site to attract more foot traffic
- Enrichment activities on site to attract more foot traffic
- All Vendors will be treated equally

Why do I need to have my booth completely set up by a certain time on Market Saturdays and keep my booth set up for the entirety of the Market's Operating Hours each Saturday?

The Market will advertise our Operating Hours to the public on a weekly basis. Therefore, the entire Market must be open and ready to sell during those hours as a matter of professionalism and courtesy to our customers.

Why do I have to attend a minimum number of Market Days each Season in order to guarantee my booth space for the next Market Season?

Customers will visit The Market to purchase certain products that they have come to expect will be available. If customers regularly find Vendors missing from The Market on Saturdays, they may choose to take their business to another venue or entity that is more reliable. Therefore, Vendors who are reliable in their presence at The Market throughout the Market Season will be given priority for booth spaces the following Season.

Why do I have to report an expected absence to the Market Manager at least three days prior to a Market Saturday?

We never want our Market to look “empty” or have unfilled booth spaces. Therefore, if a Vendor is going to be absent on any Saturday, the Market Manager needs time to schedule a temporary Vendor to fill your booth space.

Why can't I sell produce or food items that I've purchased from elsewhere unless they are not in season in our region and I have written permission to do so?

The Market strives to support local growers and producers first and foremost. So if certain produce is in season for our local growers, we don't want them to have to compete with wholesale versions of those produce items within our Farmers Market. If certain produce items are out of season in our region, then written permission may be provided for vendors to purchase them from other regions and sell them at The Market in order to provide variety for our customers and additional profit-generating opportunities for our vendors.

Why can't I park my vehicle at my booth space during Market Hours of Operation?

We do not have space within our designated Market area to park vehicles at booths.

Why do I have to provide a trash bin at my booth and be responsible for removing the trash and the bin at the end of each Market Saturday if I utilize disposable packaging or serveware for single-serve food items?

We are grateful to our site host for allowing us to hold The Market on their property. We want to keep their space clean and avoid burdening them with extra clean up on our behalf.

Why do I have to accept “Market Tokens” as payment?

The Market implements a number of special programs, including SNAP/EBT and sponsored market credit, in order to attract more customers for our Vendors and provide greater access to fresh, local food.

Will I lose profits by accepting “Market Tokens” as payment?

No. Market Tokens are worth \$1.00 each, and Vendors should treat them exactly like \$1.00 bills. Vendors will receive the full value of any Market Tokens they turn in to the Market Manager (example: 10 Market Tokens = \$10.00)

Should I give change to customers for Market Tokens if their purchase total does not add up to a whole dollar amount?

No. Market Tokens cannot be exchanged for cash. If a customer gives a Vendor seven (7) Market Tokens (value = \$7.00) for a \$6.50 purchase, then the customer must forfeit the \$.50 difference. OR, the customer can pay the vendor using six (6) Market Tokens (value = \$6.00) and \$.50 in money coins (quarters, dimes, nickels, pennies).

If all of your Vendor spaces are currently full, should I still fill out the online Prospective Vendor Interest Form?

Definitely. The Market Manager will keep an updated Waiting List of Prospective Vendors and will also reach out to Prospective Vendors on the Waiting List to fill temporary or permanent Vendor spaces as they become available.

Why do I have to provide weights for all four corners of my canopy tent?

Winds in our region can be strong and unpredictable. Weighing your tent down will prevent the tent from shifting or moving in the wind and potentially causing injury.