

Steep Falls Farmers' Market Association

Market Rules

These rules are intended to be fair to all and in the best interest of all the vendors who participate in our markets, as well as to provide the best products and service to our customers.

LOCATION & SEASON:

The Steep Falls Farmers' Market is held on Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm at the Steep Falls Village Park. The market begins on the first Saturday in May and ends on the last Saturday of October.

MEMBERSHIP & ELIGIBILITY:

-Person producing "Farm and food products" meaning any agricultural, horticultural, forest or other product of the soil or water. (Maine Law §415)

-All farmers, gardeners, growers, bakers and artisans who grow or create at least 75% of what they offer for sale are eligible for participation in farmers markets. The remaining 25% must be labeled as to where they are from. (Maine Law §415)

-It is not allowed to buy in products similar to those sold by other vendors unless the vendor agrees to it. Any items not produced by your farm or business must be labeled as such to indicate where they originated and must be produced in Maine.

-Solicitation for products, services, charities or contributions other than market vendors are not permitted or covered by our insurance policy.

To insure the highest quality of products offered at our market, the following requirements are to be met:

FARMERS & HOME GARDENERS: Grown within 34 miles of Steep Falls. Freshly picked produce. Clean display units. Proper storage containers for product. Proof of all necessary licenses and insurance are required.

ARTISANS of BAKED GOODS & PROCESSED FOODS: Your products must be created within 35 miles of Steep Falls. Goods must be created from scratch and sold fresh. Pre-made frozen products or box mixes are unacceptable. All products which require packaging/labeling must be attractive. Proof of insurance and licenses must be submitted. Samples of products to be sold at the market will be juried by the SFFM Association (see details below). Local/Maine ingredients shall be used as much as possible. Fruits and vegetables used in baked goods and/or processed (canned) should be local/Maine. Coffee should be Maine roasted.

CRAFTERS OF FARM PRODUCTS (non-edible and as defined above): Products made must fall within 35 miles of Steep Falls. All items created must be done so from raw materials/scratch and should include some local/Maine ingredient. Pre-made bases, mixes and assembled items from kits are not permitted. Resale certificates are required along with proof of insurance, or a waiver must be signed releasing the Steep Falls Farmers' Market Association from any liability. A sample of products to be sold will be juried by the SFFM Association (see details below).

CRAFTERS/ARTISTS of NON-FARM PRODUCTS: are considered guest vendors and are exempt from the agricultural basis. The Association will take precedence on selection from this criteria: close vicinity from the market, but not more than 35 miles; artistic products depicting agriculture, environment, or Steep Falls; non-profit benefitting the local area. Vendor is still responsible for their licenses, insurance, and permits if necessary.

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS:

- Every vendor, current and new, must submit a completed application by the posted deadline for each season to be reviewed and approved at the SFFM Association's spring meeting. Current vendors who do not submit an application and licenses by the posted deadline will have their space filled if the space is needed.
- New vendors will be invited to the SFFM Association's spring meeting for an interview, product review and discussion of their application. Approval of each new vendor is done by vote of the association's current members in attendance at our annual spring meeting.
- New vendor selection is a case by case basis and will be determined by what best meets the needs of the market and its customers. While we ask that you list every item or product you intend on bringing, this is not a guarantee you will be allowed to sell it. SFFM Association reserves the right to limit certain items based on current items offered to keep the market as diverse as possible.
- Bakers, food vendors, artisans and crafters are asked to bring a few samples of products to be sold to the meeting to be juried by the members in attendance.
- All applications received after the deadline and/or new potential vendors who cannot attend the spring meeting interview will be put on a waiting list for the following season.
- Copies of appropriate licenses, resale certificates and proof of general liability insurance are due by opening day of the market, but preferably with the application submission. No one will be accepted without these.
- Payment for the market season is due with the application.

VENDOR SPACES & SET-UP:

- Market spots for vendors will be determined by the Steering Committee. Vendors will set up in the same spot from year to year unless two vendors agree to swap spaces. The Market Manager may also suggest particular spots if needed for the flow of the market.
- Each stall can be up to 10 feet wide by 28 feet long. Market members should keep their displays neat and attractive and are responsible for keeping their area clean. All vendors are encouraged to display their names, farm names, and/or pictures. Vendors will provide some means of posting prices of all products offered for sale. Canopies are encouraged but not essential.
- Absences: It is each vendors responsibility to notify the vendor(s) neighboring your booth as soon as possible to allow set up to go accordingly and fill in gaps.

VENDOR CONDUCT:

- Vendors must conduct themselves in a responsible manner, arrive on time, be attentive, and provide good customer service. All members are encouraged to be helpful and cooperate with other members. Proper attire is expected, including shirts and shoes.
- There is a strong expectation that food vendors attend every market. Vendors are responsible for letting the Market Manager or Assistant Market Manager know when they won't be attending the market as well as their vendor neighbors.
- When two or more vendors on any market day believe that the selling practices of another vendor are detrimental to the Market, they may call a special meeting of the membership. A majority of those present at that special meeting may require that the detrimental practices be changed to conform to membership standards. Failure to do so may be cause for immediate dismissal if so voted by a majority of all market members.

The Market Manager and/or Steering Committee have the final say in interpretation of any of these rules and regulations when necessary or to address any unanticipated circumstances.

In signing the application, each vendor agrees that these rule and regulations have been reviewed and understood.