



UNION COUNTY FARMERS MARKET

290 FARMERS MARKET WAY • BLAIRSVILLE GA 30512

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2023 Kris Kringle Vendor Information, Operating Guidelines & Rules

Kris Kringle Vendor Guidelines

“Vendor” shall be defined as those who grow, produce, process and/or hand craft the items they intend to sell at the Union County Farmers Market (the “Market”). All vendors must reside and produce their product Union County or a county contiguous with Union County (Georgia-Union, Fannin, Towns, Lumpkin, White; North Carolina-Clay, Cherokee). These vendors must be the original producers, family members of producers, or employees of producers of all the items being sold at the Market.

All applications are accepted at the discretion of Market Management and are based on the following:

Agricultural Products: Farmers are given priority, and everything must be homegrown in Union or a contiguous County.

Arts & Crafts: Products must be of high quality and hand crafted/made in Union or a contiguous County.

Food Vendors: Vendors selling pre-prepared food items as permitted with proper licensing (i.e., Cottage Food License from the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture) and produced in Union or a contiguous County. Vendors wishing to sell food products must submit all proper licenses at the time of application.

All applications are due by October 16, 2023, and vendors will be notified of their status by October 31, 2023. If space becomes a factor, agricultural producers are given top priority. Georgia Law requires that all vendors must have required Health Department, Georgia Department of Agriculture, USDA, and any other applicable federal, state, or local licenses. In addition, vendors must adhere to federal and state guidelines on all required labels.

Product Guidelines

All items for sale at the Kris Kringle Market must be listed on the Vendor Application.

A. *Raw Agricultural Products:*

Food in its raw or natural state including fruits, vegetables, grains, herbs, honey, USDA-approved meat, candled eggs. Bedding plants and potted plants grown from seed, plugs, cuttings, bulbs, and bare root. Woody plants and bedding plants may be re-potted and sold if they have been in the seller’s possession for 45 days (no resale of pre-finished plants is allowed). Fresh cut flowers and cultivated mushrooms are permitted if grown by the vendor on their property. No foraged items are permitted.

All vendors must meet and abide by license requirements from the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the Union County Health Department as well as those required by the USDA. Products requiring licenses may be sold when a copy of current licenses issued by the proper authority accompanies the application. These products include Dairy Products (governed by the Georgia Dairy Law), Eggs (governed by the Georgia Egg Law), Meat/Poultry Products (governed by Georgia Meat Compliance Laws) and proper labeling on jars of honey. Any vendor selling live plants at the Farmers Market must have a Live Plant License from the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Only USDA certified organic growers may display signs using the word “Organic”.

B. Value-Added Agricultural Products:

Raw agricultural products that are those grown by a vendor and modified/enhanced by the same vendor. Examples are cheese, cider, picked out nuts, dog treats, fiber products, sorghum syrup, leather, and soaps made with herbs, beeswax and/or goat milk produced on vendor's farm. Vendors selling these products must have any applicable licenses from the Georgia Department of Agriculture (i.e., Dairy or Feed Licenses) and meet all federal, state, and local regulations.

C. Prepared Foods:

Foods prepared by any process other than washing. These are pre-packaged and ready to eat and include breads, rolls, biscuits, cakes, pastries, cookies, candies, fruit pies, jams, jellies, preserves, dried herb seasonings, cereals, trail mixes, granola, coated nuts, popcorn, and flavored vinegar. These must be prepared from scratch meaning there shall be nothing sold using commercially prepared mixes, crusts/shells, or fillings. Vendors selling these products must package, label, and have a Cottage Food License in accordance with the Georgia Department of Agriculture and meet all federal, state, and local regulations.

D. Arts and Crafts:

All crafts are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. They shall be a product of a home or cottage type industry and include handmade soap (not produced by a farmer), woodworking, pottery, quilted/knitted/crocheted products, jewelry, cutlery, candles etc. Members selling these items must have created them. The items must be handcrafted, original, and exhibit a high level of quality and design. Products from a kit assembly are not allowed to be sold. Direct resale of any item is not allowed. T-Shirts may be sold if those T-shirts are being made by farmers and are a promotional item of that farm.

Additional Guidelines

- Each booth rental consists of a 10ft x 15ft covered space and is designated by the green stripes on the sides of the booth or a designated space in which to set up a tent.
- All produce/products must be of the highest quality and is subject to the judgment of Market Management and there shall be no buying and reselling of produce or other products.
- The Market Management is empowered to answer questions, solve problems, and amend Market policies.
- The Union County Farmers Market Management reserves the right to visit and inspect any vendor's farm or production site to verify that items being sold are being produced at the farm or production site. No buying and re-selling of products is allowed at the Farmers Market. The sale of any product not grown or produced by the vendor could result in the expulsion of vendor from the Union County Farmers Market.
- The pricing of goods is at the discretion of the individual vendor. Vegetables and other products will be sold by the piece or by volume not by the pound. The use of scales is prohibited at the Market.
- Vendors are responsible for making sure that all persons working in their booths are familiar with and adhere to all Union County Farmers Market operating guidelines and rules.
- The Union County Farmers Market is not responsible for collecting sales tax. Vendors are responsible for collecting and paying their own sales tax.
- Union County Farmers Market and persons associated with or selling at the Market shall not discriminate against any individual regarding matters of age, sex, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or any physical or mental disability.

- The Union County Farmers Market will adhere to all federal, state, and local guidelines regarding COVID19 and other public health issues.

Market Day Rules

1. Kris Kringle Market set-up will begin at 8:00 am on Saturday and all booths must be ready for business by 9:30am.
2. All vendors are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner when dealing with customers, other vendors, and market staff. Vendors shall not participate in arguments or make threatening remarks toward other vendors, customers and/or market staff.
3. No “hawking” of products, distracting of customers from another vendor’s space, interfering with the communication between other vendors and their customers, or disparaging remarks about another vendor’s goods will be tolerated.
4. The safety of customers and vendors is a priority at the Farmers Market. Vendors arriving and departing from the Market must drive slowly and carefully especially during set-up and operation. For everyone’s safety, customers are not permitted to drive through the Market at any time during operating hours. Transportation via our two Market utility vehicles is available for customers needing assistance to and from the parking area.
5. Nails and screws shall not be mounted in any structure or post at the Farmers Market.
6. There shall not be any solicitation for political or religious reasons.
7. Smoking is strictly prohibited within 25 feet of buildings.
8. Samples are permitted so long as those items are pre-packaged and self-contained. These can then be given by the vendor to the customer requesting the sample.
9. Vendors must have a copy of the required license(s) in their booth.
10. No pets are allowed on the north side (market side) of Butternut Creek except for trained service dogs and those dogs at the pup tent.
11. Electricity is supplied at every other booth in buildings A and B and at each booth Building C. The maximum amps which can be used on any one circuit is 20. If a particular machine is using more energy than the demand the Market Management reserves the right to remove that machine from the circuit.
12. Each vendor is responsible for sweeping their space of any debris at the end of the Market Day.
13. No signs, shelving, tables, furniture, or vehicles shall be left at the Market overnight.
14. A vendor’s failure of adherence to these policies set forth herein results: a first offense brings a verbal warning, and the second offense brings expulsion from the Market.