



UNION COUNTY FARMERS MARKET

2024 Vendor Information, Operating Guidelines & Rules

UNION COUNTY FARMERS MARKET
290 FARMERS MARKET WAY
BLAIRSVILLE GA 30512
(706) 439-6043

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About the Union County Farmers Market

Union County takes pride in its agricultural roots. In 2007, County Commissioner Lamar Paris organized a committee to oversee the development of a local market that would give our growers, big and small, a place to sell their goods. The Union County Farmers Market was first held in the Union County Courthouse parking lot. Since then, the Market has grown to occupy three buildings containing 80+ farmers and artisans.

The mission of the Union County Farmers Market is:

1. To promote and encourage the development of local, small-scale agriculture.
2. To provide and administer a seasonal marketplace for local producers of agricultural products as well as hand-made arts and crafts.
3. To enhance knowledge about the economic importance of supporting local farmers and the nutritional benefits of eating fresh foods.
4. To promote the local heritage of rural living and the social interaction at Farmers Market.

The Union County Farmers Market operating hours for 2024 are Saturdays 8am-1pm and Tuesdays 9am-1pm June 1 through October 26, 2024. The Market is located at 290 Farmers Market Way, Blairsville, Georgia.

Vendor Guidelines

All vendors must reside and produce their product in Union County or a county contiguous with Union County (Georgia-Union, Fannin, Towns, Lumpkin, White; North Carolina-Clay, Cherokee).

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.

Seasonal booth rentals may be available to vendors willing to commit to attending a majority of all Market Days unless extenuating circumstance dictate otherwise, such as illness. These seasonal rentals are made at the discretion of the Union County Farmers Market Management and are based upon availability, the previous year's vendors, consistent attendance, and market needs. Vendors may not sublet stall space or share it with another vendor without prior approval from Market Management.

Each seasonal booth rental consists of a 10ft x 16ft covered space and is designated by the green stripes on the sides of the booth. All produce/products must be of the highest quality and are subject to the judgment of Market Management.

Craft vendors are limited to one (1) booth rental. Agricultural Vendors may be allowed to rent more than one (1) booth. Additional booths will be granted by Market Management to qualified farmers.

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.

Recognized Civic groups/non-profits organizations are welcome to participate for fundraising purposes but **MUST** contact the Union County Farmers Market in advance to schedule dates for participation.

Daily Vendor Attendance Policy & Guidelines

Daily Vendor applications are accepted at the discretion of Market Management. All applications are accepted at the discretion of the Market Management, based county of residence and on the following criteria:

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 handmade/crafted in Union or a contiguous County.

Food Vendors: May be accepted on a case-by-case basis. Vendors wishing to sell ANY food products at the Market must contact the office (706-439-6043) and submit all proper licenses in advance.

Spaces may or may not be under the building and daily vendors are encouraged to bring a tent.

SATURDAY MARKET ONLY

CALL and leave a message at (706) 439-6043 or EMAIL farmersmarket@uniongov.com between 11am and 1pm the Friday before the intended market day, leaving this information:

- Name
- Business Name
- County of production
- ALL products to sell
- Confirmation of required licenses
- Intended date of attendance

If we are able to accommodate you as a Daily Vendor for the intended date, you will receive a confirmation call or email with an assigned booth number after 1pm on that Friday. If your products require licenses, please email them, or bring hard copies on the day of the market.

TUESDAY MARKET ONLY

You can arrive at the market by 8:30 and check in at the market office to receive an assigned space. No need to call or email to reserve booth.

Product Guidelines

All items for sale at the Union County Farmers Market must be listed on the application. Any and all additional items that an accepted vendor would like to add during the year must be in writing and approved by Market Management before they are sold at the market.

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 but are not limited to: Dairy Products, Eggs, Meat/Poultry Products 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

- There shall be no buying and reselling of produce or other products with the exception of peaches, apples, peanuts, pecans, muscadines, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cantaloupes and watermelons. These products may only be sold by qualified vendors and are subject to restrictions based on seasonal availability of locally produced products. Tomatoes can be purchased and resold until the second Saturday in July. Melons can be purchased and resold until local melons are available. Strawberries may be resold during the regular Market season.
- The Market Management is empowered to answer questions, solve problems, and amend Market policies.
- In the effort to promote healthy food choices for kids, the Union County Farmers Market participates in a nationwide program called the POP (Power of Produce) Kids Club. As part of the program, the kids earn Farmers Market “coins” they can spend on fresh fruits and vegetables only. Each “coin” is worth \$2.00, and vendors will be reimbursed by the Farmers Market at the end of the day.
- 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 re-selling of products is allowed at the Farmers Market other than the items previously mentioned.
- 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.
- If a vendor cannot be present on a Saturday Market Day, the vendor must inform market management by the **Friday before at 10:00am**. This can be done through the automatic attendance text, calling the office, or sending an email.
- 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 Management will make efforts to promote the Market by maintaining the Market, maintaining the Market Facebook page, and providing information to other websites that list local farmers markets, the Chamber of Commerce and the local newspaper.
- 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.

Market Day Rules

1. Vendors must be in their assigned booth(s) 30 minutes prior to the Farmers Market opening or the space will be reassigned. If a vendor cannot avoid being late or has an emergency, the vendor must **call** the Market office at (706) 439-6043 prior to 7:30am on Market Day.
2. I understand that Union County has a zero Tolerance policy, and it remains in effect.
3. 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.
4. Nails and screws shall not be mounted in any structure or post at the Farmers Market.
5. There shall not be any solicitation for political or religious reasons.
6. Smoking is strictly prohibited within 25 feet of any vendor space.
7. 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.
8. Wi-Fi is available upon request.
9. Each vendor is responsible for sweeping their space of any debris at the end of the Market Day.
10. Vendors must be packed and exited from stalls by **2:00pm**. No signs, shelving, tables, furniture, or vehicles shall be left at the Market.
11. 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.