



2023 Rules and Regulations

updated 3/13/23

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FARM ELIGIBILITY

The Lexington Farmers Market is limited to certified growers who live within the following counties: Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Rowan, Randolph, Guilford, and Montgomery. Vendors must have certification from the County Extension Office. The Davidson County Extension agent may accept certifications performed by County Extension agents in Davie, Forsyth, Rowan, Randolph, Guilford, and Montgomery counties. However, that paperwork must be given to the Davidson County agent for review and approval.

The Lexington Farmers Market operates under a “100% Time Period” and “50% Time Period.”

100% Time Period is June 15 - August 31. During this time, 100% of what you sell must be produced by you. The only exceptions are:

- (1) You may represent one other farm at your booth (for a total of 2), as long as that farm is also certified by the Davidson County Cooperative Extension and is a paid member of LFM.

-OR-

- (2) The product is approved in advance by the LFM Board of Directors for sale (e.g. NC mountain apples, NC coastal peaches, etc.). These must be NC farm products only not currently being grown locally by another member, and the approval must be received year to year.

Either way, these products **MUST** be labeled on your table with the farm name and NC county of origin.

50% Time Period is from January 1 to June 14, and from September 1 - December 31.

During this time, up to 50% of what you sell may be produced by other farms, as long as they meet these criteria:

- (1) The product **MUST** be from a farm in Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Rowan, Randolph, Guilford or Montgomery counties. We strongly prefer Cooperation Extension certification, but these farms do not have to be current LFM members.

-OR-

- (2) The product is approved in advance by the LFM Board of Directors for sale (e.g. NC mountain apples, NC coastal peaches, etc.). These must be NC farm products only not currently being grown locally by another member, and the approval must be received year to year.

Either way, these products **MUST** be labeled on your table with the farm name and NC county of origin.

At all times, all baked goods, preserves, pickles, relishes, jams, and jellies (made in NC Department of Agriculture certified home kitchens), as well as handmade crafts, must be made by the seller. No non-vendor products of these kinds may be sold at the Market at any time.

LFM MEMBERSHIP FEES

There is an annual fee of \$100 for membership for the calendar year (no pro-rating when purchased later in the year). If, after a membership has been purchased, circumstances arise that prevent a member from participating in the market, and the first market of the year has not yet occurred, a refund of half of the membership amount paid will be made to the member. After the opening day of the market season, no refund will be made.

VENDOR FEES

Members pay \$15 per day and non-members pay \$25 per day. Membership is required to vend everywhere except the Depot, with the exception of a one-time trial vending day at the member rate. Tables may be rented for \$5/day and scales for \$10/day at the Depot.

See the Market Manager for Season Pass prices of \$125-190 at the Depot depending on booth size and location. The board reserves the right to create "season pass" pricing for other market venues. Special Markets (Harvest, Holiday, and others designated by the Board) are \$50 for all vendors (members and non-members), except for Season Pass Holders, where special markets are included in the Season Pass.

PRODUCTS THAT CAN BE SOLD

- Vegetables grown from seeds, sets, or seedlings
- Fruits, nuts, or berries grown on land owned or leased by the seller
- Plants grown by the seller from seed, seedling, transplant, or cutting
- Bulbs propagated by the seller
- Eggs produced from the seller's hens
- Meats from animals raised by the seller
- Honey produced from the seller's bees
- Cut or dried flowers grown by the seller
- Firewood cut by the seller
- Straw baled by the seller
- Preserves, pickles, relishes, jams, and jellies made by the seller (with Dept. of Ag kitchen certification)
- Baked goods baked by the seller (with Dept. of Ag kitchen certification)

No low-acid canned foods such as green beans, corn, peas, carrots, etc. may be sold. In addition, no canned tomato products may be sold.

All products must be top quality. Pricing should be reflective of the quality. Vendors should talk to each other before the market opening time to compare products and discuss what the appropriate value of them is. Giving a customer a discount for a large volume sale is normal and acceptable. It is not appropriate for any vendor to compare the price or quality of their product to another vendor in front of a customer.

All products produced under certification (such as organic, licensed meat, poultry, or dairy products) or products requiring inspection (such as baked goods or preserves) must display certification or license and have a copy on file with the market manager.

VENDOR GUIDELINES

- No live animals may be sold or given away at the market.
- In the interest of food safety, vendors may not bring pets to the market. Please note that customers may bring well-behaved and leashed pets to the Depot, but we do not actively encourage this. If a pet touches a product, vendors have the right to insist the pet owner pay for the product.
- All produce vendors must use new bags for customer purchases.
- All vendors must display a sign with the farm name and location.
- Prices must be posted for all items and any items not grown by the seller must be labeled as to where the items came from.
- Anyone using scales must have them approved by NCDA.
- Any music live or recorded played in the market area must be approved by the Lexington Farmers Market Board of Directors.

- The seller is responsible for cleaning up around his/her space or vehicle and maintaining safety in that area. This includes the area in front of your booth, halfway to the next booth.
- No vehicles may be operated in the market during operating hours.
- Vendors offering value-added products (e.g. baked goods, jams & jellies, crafts) or produce they have purchased for resale during the 50% period must be registered with the NC Department of Revenue, and their DOR certificate must be displayed in their market stall.
- No “open carry” of firearms is allowed at any market.
- No smoking is permitted within the vending areas.
- If you are cooking samples at your booth, you must use an electrical appliance (no open flames) and monitor that appliance closely at all times.

RULES REGARDING SEASON PASSES

All Season Pass Holders are required to notify the Market Manager by Wednesday night before the Saturday that they are not planning to be at the market. Failure to do so results in a one-point deduction. A season pass holder that fails to appear at the market without communicating with the market manager for three consecutive Saturday markets will forfeit their space. The association then has the right to resell that space and no refund will be made to the season pass holder. The member does retain all rights that a paid membership affords.

Up to 25% of Season Pass spaces may be sold to crafters. A vendor may purchase no more than two spaces with a Season Pass.

RULES REGARDING PRODUCTS OR PROPERTY LEFT AT MARKET

Season pass holders are allowed to leave property and non-perishable or frozen products at the Depot between markets at their own risk. The LFMA cannot guarantee or ensure that no damage will occur to property left inside the Depot at the close of the market.

CRAFTERS GUIDELINES

Artisan crafters must be approved by the Lexington Farmers Market Association Craft Committee. All crafts must be handcrafted by the vendor selling them. All craft items must be of top quality and may not be entirely pre-fabricated. Instead, craft items should reflect a level of experience and dedication to a specific craft.

Crafts should be considered old-fashioned handmade farm crafts such as hand-sewn, knitted, or crocheted items, hand-spun yarns, hand-carved wood items, furniture, handmade baskets, natural wreaths, forged items, hand-dipped candles, handmade soaps, handmade pottery, etc. It will be at the discretion of the Craft Committee to allow items not identified above if the committee unanimously agrees that the items are in keeping with the overall presentation of

goods represented at the market. Please note that multi-level marketing company products (e.g. Scentsy, Arbonne, doTERRA, Rodan + Fields, Pampered Chef) are not allowed.

Regular vendors (farmers, ranchers, and food producers) may sell crafts in their booth, not to exceed 30% of the products offered for sale.

MEMBERSHIP POINTS SYSTEM

Each year, vendor space selection at the Depot is determined by a points system. Members will accrue points each calendar year to determine space selection the following year (e.g. points earned from January - December will be used at the Spring Meeting in the following year to determine selection order). Vendors will select their spots at the Spring association meeting in the order of their points accumulation.

Points Earning Activities

- One (1) point is awarded for each year the vendor has been a member of LFMA.
- One (1) point is awarded for each market day the vendor attends with products to sell at the Depot only.
- One (1) point is deducted for each market a Season Pass holder does not attend without notifying the market manager within at least 48 hours before market opening. Exceptions can be made for emergencies.
- Ten (10) points are awarded for serving as an LFM officer on the board of directors.
- One (1) point is awarded for every business card-sized ad, two (2) points for each 1/3 page ad, three (3) points for each 1/2 page ad, and four (4) points for each full page ad a member obtains for each edition of the Local Food Guide.
- Two (2) points are awarded for attendance at the Spring general meeting and three (3) points are awarded for attendance at the Fall general meeting.
- Up to five (5) points may be awarded to members who participate in planning, preparing for, and/or executing a special event at the market. The Market Manager determines the number of points based on the level of effort and/or product donated by the member.

The opportunity to earn other points may be offered at the discretion of the LFM board.

No points can be accrued by any member acting as an agent for another farm. Non-members do not accrue points.

VENDOR COMPLIANCE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

If an LFM member feels a vendor is not following any rule of the market the member should:

1. Respectfully ask the suspected vendor about the issue.
2. If concerns still exist, the member should submit their concern in writing to the market manager
3. The market manager will ask the suspected vendor about the issue to his/her satisfaction.

4. If the market manager deems it necessary, a farm or facility inspection may be conducted by a cooperative extension agent to verify compliance.
5. If the vendor is found to be in violation of rules, by the market manager's conclusion, disciplinary action will be taken according to LFMA rules.

Vendor noncompliance with the rules will result in:

- 1st offense per market season -- vendor receives written notification from the market manager and 1 point of deduction.
- 2nd offense per market season -- vendor receives written notification from the market manager, 2 points of deduction, and 1 week (7 days) suspension from the market as a vendor.
- 3rd offense per market season -- vendor receives written notification from the market manager and suspension as a vendor for the rest of the market season. Any prepaid annual space rental will be prorated and mailed to the former vendor. The membership fee would not be refunded.

The market manager has the authority to determine the validity of a complaint and discretion when and whether to act upon it. If the market manager deems it necessary, a farm/facility inspection may be conducted by a cooperative extension agent to verify compliance.

A vendor who disagrees with the market manager's disciplinary decision may bring their concerns to the board of directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting following such vendor's receipt of a notice of noncompliance which forms the basis of a vendor's complaint. A vendor shall submit their complaint to the board of directors in writing within at least ten (10) days of the event(s) giving rise to such complaints/concerns. Failure to submit a complaint in the manner described herein shall forfeit the vendor's right to have the board consider their complaint/concerns.

Upon receipt of a vendor's written complaint, the board may allow such vendor to make an oral presentation to the board to summarize their complaint/concern and to share any written documentation the vendor wishes for the board to consider. The board may place reasonable limits on the time allotted for such a presentation. The board shall respond in writing to the complaining vendor with its decision, which decision shall be deemed final.

The market manager has the authority to restrict a vendor from participating in the market due to noncompliance or flagrant violation of market rules. Such restriction may also be brought before the board for its decision in the manner described above.

The market manager also has the authority to ask anyone – vendor, customer, LFMA member, or non-member – to leave the market area due to actions that present a risk to the safety of other vendors, customers, the general public, or for actions that disrupt the general wellbeing and prosperity of the market.

2023 Farmers Market Dates, Locations, Vendor Fees, and Season Passes

2023 LFM Membership is \$100 for the calendar year.

	Depot	Weathervane	Parkway Plaza (Proposed)	Conrad & Hinkle	Lexington Neighborhood Pop-Ups (TBD)	Thomasville Farmers Market Week Day Pop-Ups	Davidson County Winter Market 2023-24
Day of the Week	Saturday	Sunday (1st and 3rd)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	TBD	Saturday
Time of Day	8 am - Noon	Noon - 3 pm	5 - 8 pm (tbd)	8 - 12:30 pm	Evenings, TBD	TBD	Noon - 3 pm
Start/End Dates	May 6- Oct 14	May 21- Sept 17	Late Spring - Fall	June 14 - Aug 2	Peak Season	TBD	TBD
Day Rate for LFM Members	\$15	\$15*	\$15	\$15*	TBD (\$0-\$15)*	\$15	\$15*
Day Rate for Non-Members	\$25	Members only*	LFM Members only (for 2023 at least)	Members only*	Members only*	Up to TFM	Members only*
Season Pass	\$125-190	\$100	TBD	\$90	NA	TBD	TBD
Season Pass Discount	49%-66% off	25% off	At least \$25% off	25% off	NA	TBD	\$25% off

* Thomasville Farmers Market members may vend at the LFM member rate of \$15.

Current as of 3-13-23