



## 2010 MARKET RULES & REGULATIONS THE VERMONT FARMERS MARKET, INC.

These rules apply to all weekly markets. The Special Shows have their own. Your signature on your market sign-up sheet indicates that you have read them, that you will ask if there is anything you don't understand, and that you will abide by them.

### Who Can Be A Vendor & How Do You Become One?

If you are actively involved in the growing, raising, picking, baking or making of quality goods for market sale, you can become a vendor. First, you must become a Member of the Market by registering and paying the annual dues. Then you sign-up for whichever Market(s) you want to do, as a seasonal, half-seasonal (agricultural vendors only) or daily vendor. If you're a returning vendor, your space is guaranteed and you can pay your fee up front, or select a payment plan. New or returning, you'll get notified by mail about your space. If there is no available new vendor space, we will let you know that, and you'll go on a waiting list.

### What Can You Sell?

If you and your "family" (may include apprentices, interns and farm workers) grow it, raise it, pick it, bake it or make it, and that happens in Vermont or Washington County, New York, you can sell it at the Market.

If you are an agricultural vendor, you must produce at least 80% of what you sell. You can acquire up to 20% of what you sell from another producer within the same area. This includes plugs or plants, unless you've put at least 6 weeks of your own labor into them. To avoid complaints, you must tell your market coordinator if you plan to do this. S/he or the Board may decide not to allow it.

### What Can't You Do?

You can't sell low acid canned goods, items made from kits, baked goods made from commercially prepared or frozen dough, or flea market items. You can't be a jobber or wholesaler.

You can't run your own raffle or sell tickets to anything.

You can't intentionally set or drop your prices to hurt another vendor. The Coordinator and/or the Board are responsible for keeping adequate guidelines.

### What Else Are You Supposed To Do?

You're supposed to have and keep your copy of these Rules at your space every Market day.

You're expected to have all the proper licenses, certificates etc. for your goods. If you sell produce, food or body care products you have to have product liability insurance and give the Market a copy of your policy cover sheet. You have to be in compliance with state health regulations, if they apply to you.

If your goods are subject to Vermont sales, meals and/or local tax, you are responsible for collecting and reporting those taxes.

If you are selling food to be eaten on-site, you need to provide a trash can for your customers and take the trash with you at the end of the day.

You're expected to participate on Market days, unless you've called or told your Coordinator ahead of time that you won't be there. Emergencies happen, and we understand that. Just be considerate and let your Coordinator know.

**NEW ITEM!** If you know in advance that you won't be there (vacation, a show, the Fair), and you don't let your Coordinator know at least a week in advance, you'll be charged the daily fee for that space even if you've paid for the season. Don't ask someone else to pass the message along; they may forget. Please call yourself.

**NEW ITEM!** Space fees are a business expense we should all plan for. If you're a seasonal vendor and need to set up payments, check the payment plan you want on the application form and follow it. If you're a daily vendor, the Coordinator has the option of collecting your space fee when you arrive, and stopping you from setting up if you don't have it. Please don't put her/him in that position; have your fee ready.

Get to Market with enough time to unload, move your vehicle and set up before the start of Market. Keep your set-up neat, and stay within your space. You have to stay to the end of the Market (barring emergencies), clean up your space after you tear down, and turn in your estimated gross sales for the day to the Coordinator (produce vendors can turn theirs in at the end of the season, not the tax year).

Bring your smile and your patience. Sour attitudes put off customers and reflect badly on the Market. If you don't like dealing with the public or other vendors, you might want to rethink being a vendor.

If you see anything going on at your Market that doesn't seem right, let your Coordinator or the Board President know. If appropriate, they will pass the information to the Market Grievance Committee for investigation and action. If you do not abide by the rules, you can be barred from the following week's Market for the first offense, or bounced for the remainder of the season if you're a repeat offender.

### **Is There Anything Unique To The Special Shows?**

Of course there is. That's why they have their own special set of Rules.

### **Anything Else?**

Yes. If you have a difference of opinion with your Market Coordinator, and you two can't work it out, you have the right to take it to the Board of Directors for arbitration. Their decision, however, is final.