Farmers' Market Area Guidelines

Coordinators: John & Mary Belding – Rose Gate
Adrienne Lee – Pine Gate

Purpose: The purpose of the Farmers' Market is to provide an outlet for organic growers in Maine to sell their produce and to educate fairgoers about the quality, variety and feasibility of organic farming in Maine.

Guidelines for the Farmers' Market

1. Farmers' Market vendors are required to follow the general guidelines of the Common Ground Country Fair (CGCF).
2. Produce, prepared food, and value-added food items sold in the Farmers' Market Area are subject to the MOFGA Food Policy.
3. Farmers' Market vendors whose produce or plants are not MOFGA-certified organic must submit with their applications an affidavit stating that they are growing organically and thus that their produce or plants are certifiable. This affidavit is allowable for one year only. After the initial "Affidavit year" Farmers' Market participants will be expected to become certified in order to participate. During the growing season, a member of MOFGA's Staff may pay random visits to non-certified Farmers' Market vendors for verification of organic record keeping and organic growing practices. Products not covered by NOP certification standards will be reviewed by the Farmers' Market Area Coordinators.
4. A vendor may sell value-added items provided the primary ingredients (75% by weight) are grown and raised on their own farm and processed by the farmer. For food products, all non-farm ingredients must comply with the MOFGA Food Policy. Applicants intending to sell value-added items should refer to the MOFGA Food Policy and fill out a Food Ingredient Form if the value-added food product is not certified organic. A one year only exception will be made for a non-certified value-added food product. At the Fair, Coordinators will check vendor receipts or proof of purchase for all purchased ingredients.
6. In light of the increasing ecological concerns about genetic engineering and agriculture, the CGCF will require by 2014 Farmers' Market vendors to raise fiber-producing animals on grain that is free of genetically modified organisms.
7. All vendors providing fresh produce, food, or processed food products must show proof of insurance covering general liability. The Fair office will accept a photocopy of the vendor's policy. If a vendor needs to get insurance for the Fair, a short term policy, in effect for only the Fair, is available for Fair vendors through Keyes/Philbrick/Finley/Mullen Insurance, PO Box 100, Skowhegan, ME 04976. Phone: 474-9576.
8. The Farmers' Market Area Coordinators assign to each vendor space that is large enough for a single vendor's vehicle and display table (approximately 15' X 25').
9. The CGCF does not provide shelter to Farmers' Market vendors.
10. The CGCF supplies a limited amount of electricity for Farmers' Market Vendors, for perishable food safety. Electrical hookups are available only in a limited area of the Rose

Gate Market, near the Information Booth and are subject to availability. Vendors must request an electricity supply form from the MOFGA office, and pay an electricity fee.

11. Prepared foods sold at the Farmers' Market must be intended for off-site consumption. However, vendors may offer samples of their products for promotional purposes.
12. Vendors contract for space on a daily basis, paying $50.00 per day. MOFGA certified growers receive a $10 per day discount. All accepted vendors may reserve booth space for $10.00 per day until a designated date in July when the contract balance is due.