

2018 Merrill Area Farmer's Market Rules and Regulations

Membership and Fees

1. To become a member of the Merrill Area Farmer's Market, you must pay the yearly membership fee, fill out and sign a membership application, and sign a Hold Harmless Agreement, BEFORE setting up a stand at the market. NO REFUNDS.
2. By becoming a member, vendors agree to follow all Rules and Regulations of the Merrill Area Farmer's Market Organization.
3. Vendors agree to promote and help in the growth of the local farmer's market.
4. Membership fee will be determined before the opening of the market each year.
5. Membership fees for the President, Secretary, Market Manager/Treasurer, and Advertising and Promotion Manager will be half of the normal membership fee.

Joint Membership Venture

1. Two producers may join together to sell at one vendor's stand only by approval of the general membership.

Produce, Meat, Art, and Non-Produce

1. All products must meet all applicable health and sanitation regulations. Vendors are responsible for using legal methods of sales, weights, and measurements.
2. Products should be of high quality, properly labeled, and with prices visible to the customers.
3. All sellers are responsible for their own personal and product liability. Vendors selling products that require State Licensing must file a Certificate of Insurance with the Merrill Area Farmer's market for minimum of \$250,000.00.
4. All produce must be honestly represented and locally grown in Lincoln, Langlade, Oneida, and Taylor Counties, subject to inspection by the Market Steering Committee or Board members. The vendors are required to offer for sale ONLY the produce they personally produce.
5. Non-produce vendors are allowed, up to 50% of produce vendors per day. Non-produce vendors must be approved before joining the market.
6. Non-profit organizations may attend the Merrill Area Farmer's Market once a month without paying a fee. Coming more often will result in paying annual fee for joining the market.
7. Accepting WIC/Senior Checks without state approval is strictly prohibited. Violators may be removed from the market.
8. Vendors participating in EBT/SNAP programs are required to follow all program rules and regulations. Violators may be removed from the market.
9. No live animals at the market.
10. No selling of wholesale products.
11. Examples of what is permissible for sale is as follows: fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, plants, maple syrup, honey, items under the pickle bill, items that require state licensing, and non-produce items approved by the market.

Stands

1. The allowable frontage of each stand is up to 24 feet.
2. Vendors should keep their stand and produce in line with vendors to their right and left.
3. Vendors are responsible to have a clean and presentable stand.
4. All produce should be off the ground, except for pumpkins and large products.
5. Vendor's name and address should be clearly displayed.
6. It is the responsibility of each vendor to clean up their sales area after each day's sales.
7. Stand set-up will be order of arrival. See Market Manager for exceptions.

Vendor Conduct

1. Direct concerns, complaints, or recommendations to the Market Manager in writing and it will be handled either personally or brought to the Board if deemed necessary.
2. All vendors' behavior will be courteous and respectful.
3. The calling out or luring of customers from other vendor stands will not be tolerated.

Voting and Board Election

1. Elections will be held annually.
2. Each stand is allowed one vote.
3. Motions, changes of Rules and Regulations, and the electing of Board members will be passed by the majority that is present at the meeting.
4. A voting member is a vendor who has paid their dues for the current market year (June to June).

Any infractions of these rules will be grounds for immediate removal of a vendor by the Market Manager/Steering Committee.

Merrill Area Farmer's Market

Vendor Policy for Accepting SNAP

1. All vendors choosing to accept SNAP (Market Tokens) for products will be assigned a vendor number.
2. All vendors will be given a laminated sign, with Velcro to display the sign, indicating Market Tokens (SNAP) are accepted as a form of payment.
3. **There is no cash value for the tokens.** Therefore, if someone buys \$1.50 worth of beans there are three options;
 - a. Customer pays vendor \$1.00 in Market Tokens and \$0.50 in cash.
 - b. Customer pays vendor \$2.00 in Market Tokens and forfeits the \$0.50.
 - c. Some vendors have indicated they will give additional food product to the customer in order to make up the \$0.50 difference. This is vendor discretion.

4. Market tokens can be used to purchase food items like:

Breads and baked goods	Vegetables	Meat
Fruits	Cheese	Eggs
Honey	Spices	Maple Syrup
Herbs	Pumpkins	Coffee beans

5. Market tokens CANNOT be used to purchase:

Non-food items	Cornstalks	Flowers
Gourds	Hot Foods	Brewed Coffee

If you have questions about what is an edible purchase, please contact Carla Emmer at 715-921-0489 or chadandcarla@frontier.com

6. Allowing non-eligible products to be purchased with Market Tokens, or giving change back could result in the Merrill Area Farmer's Market losing their permit to allow SNAP to be accepted.
7. **Only** accept Merrill Area Farmer's Market tokens. Other markets in central WI have begun this program but Merrill Area Farmer's Market cannot reimburse for other market's tokens.
8. If you have questions, please contact: Carla Emmer at 715-921-0489 or by email Chadandcarla@frontier.com