**Foxboro Farmers Market General Rules 2024**

 **The following rules are *taken* from a standard set drafted by the Federation of Massachusetts Farmers Markets (FMFM), *and* changed *a bit* to fit our specific situation in Foxboro. The intent of these rules is to maintain a secure structure for the Market in order for the participating farmers to operate in the best possible fashion *in the same manner as other area Markets.***

**Vendors shall *also* comply with all local, state and federal laws and regulations.**

1. Location: Foxboro Common, Foxboro, MA 02035
2. Dates and Hours of Operation: 2024 Season, Thursdays: May 30 1st-September 12th, 2024; from 4pm-8pm (no market July 4th)

**\*\**\*Some dates are subject to change if a conflict occurs with a Gillette Stadium event or New England Patriots’ home game \*\*\****

1. Registration: All farmers and prepared food vendors are required to register and join the Farmers Market by the registration deadline. The registration fee will cover the full 15 week season. Seasons may be split between two vendors with prior approval
2. Spaces: Will be assigned by the Market Manager in consultation with the farmers, prepared food vendors and the Market Committee based upon tradition, balance and fairness.
3. Products: All produce, plants, flowers, eggs, honey, cider, cheese, etc., must be grown and/or produced by the farmers of the Market. Exception: farmers may bring in produce from a local New England farm as long as it is labeled as such. Ideally, produce will be grown organically or using Integrated Pest Management. It will be free of genetically modified organisms (GMO’s).
4. Quality: All produce should be of top or grade a quality; seconds or “canners” may be offered; but must be labeled as such. The Market Manager has the right to ban any inferior products from the Market. No warrantee, however, expressed or implied is made by the Market Manager or the Market Committee as the quality of products sold.
5. Prices: Prices will be fair market value, negotiated by the farmer, prepared food vendor, and the customer. All products must have prices clearly marked and posted. Products must be sold by piece, bunch, container or weight.
6. Weight: An official town or state Scale of Weights and Measures shall seal Scales. Household scales are not permitted.
7. Prepared Foods: As long as a farmer sells a majority of fresh produce, the farmer may bring bread, jellies, jams, and similar processed foods made by themselves. The farmer is responsible for complying with all requirements and licenses set by local and state governments. Prepared foods offered by farmers and prepared food vendors should be made from fresh, local seasonal ingredients.
8. Non-Farm Products: Must be high quality, locally made, requiring skill and creativity, and the vendor must add at least 75% of the total value to the product. The product(s) must be complementary to a farmers’ market. We may restrict the number of vendors selling similar products. Environmental friendliness is strongly preferred.
9. Set up and Display: All farmers and prepared food vendors should arrive at the market before starting time allowing sufficient time to set up their products/produce and display by opening time. Each farmer and prepared food vendor is responsible for setting up his/her display and provides protection for his or her produce from the elements.
10. Opening and Closing: Normally, no products may be sold before the starting time of 4pm (although the Market Manager may permit sales under certain circumstances). Farmers and prepared food vendors may sell while preparing to breakdown at closing until 8pm, but should *departing by* 8:30pm. Farmers will leave their *areas in* clean condition at Market closing.
11. No Hawking: Business must be conducted from inside the booth. No farm or non-farm vendor may approach attendees outside their booths.
12. Attendance: If a farmer or prepared food vendor is unable to attend on any given week, they must call or email the Market Manager before 3PM on the market day. Repeated failure to call may result in loss of space at the Market.
13. Insurance: The market is covered by liability insurance *however* farmers and prepared food vendors have their own insurance.
14. Compliance with rules: Farmers must permit inspection of their farms *if requested* to verify compliance with the rules. On a co-operative basis, each farmer in the market will permit visits and make visits to every other farm in the market for a tour by the host farmer to view plantings, machinery, acreage, etc. On an adversarial basis, upon the complaint of one or two farmers and the Market Manager, any farmer will permit the visit by the complaining parties along with a representative of the MFM and/or the Department of Food and Agriculture within 72 hours of the complaint, the field from which the vegetable or vegetables was harvested is not to be altered. The violating farm is subject to a penalty of suspension from the Market for 12 months.
15. Cooperation: Cooperation is expected. Members must be willing to follow Market rules and be willing to cooperate with management and other farmers. Any member who does not follow the rules, or who regularly shows an inability or unwillingness to cooperate, or is otherwise disruptive to the upbeat activities of the Market may be temporarily or permanently evicted from the Market by the Market Manager, upon consultation with the Market Committee.
16. Management: The Market Manager is the official manager of the market. If problems arise, the Market Manager upon, consultation with the Market Committee, will settle disputes. In the interest of promptness, decisions on any questions by the Market Manager shall be final.
17. Donations: Farmers and prepared food vendors are encouraged to donate products and produce at the end of the market, to be collected for local food pantries and meals for the elderly at the COA.
18. New Members: Membership in the Foxboro Farmers Market is limited by space. The Market Manager shall keep a waiting list of prepared food vendors, farmers and crafters who want to join the market. In the event that spaces become available, the Market Manager, with consultation with the Market Committee, will select farmers and prepared food vendors and crafters. Criteria for selection will be length of time on the waiting list and product variety, selections to be made with the best interest of the Market and the consumers in mind. Massachusetts’s farmers are preferred; but other farmers from New England states may be invited to become members by the Market Manager if they have a special product that is not present at the Market. Crafters will be limited to no more than roughly 10% of available space.
19. ARRIVAL AT THE MARKET -- Set up begins at **3:00pm**. Parking is available around the common for setup. After 3:30pm all vehicles must be moved to either the Town Hall Parking Lot, the Booth Playground Lot, or behind the Boch Building. Maps will be provided to vendors prior to Market start to illustrate these locations.
20. Canopy weights are MANDATORY. No exception. Umbrellas also require weights. Any vendor who fails to properly anchor his or her canopy will not be allowed to sell at the market that day, unless the vendor chooses to take down their canopy and sell without it. Each leg must have no less than 40 pounds anchoring each leg.