

# KOSSUTH COUNTY FARMERS MARKET

## 2022 Dates, Rules and Regulations

### DATE, TIME AND LOCATION

- The Saturday market will be held May 21 through October 8 from 9 to 11 a.m.
- The Wednesday market will be held July 6 to September 14 from 3 to 5 p.m.
- The market is held on the corner of Dodge and Nebraska Streets, east of the Dairy Queen.
- No selling is allowed before the start time. Out of respect for our customers, please no pre-selling. If the vendor chooses, special orders (call-ins) may be sacked in advance, but not sold until the official start time. A bell or horn will sound to indicate the start of the market.

### VENDOR FEES

**The cost to be a vendor is \$75 for the season.** This fee is the same if you come once or if you come every week. The fee allows participation in both the Saturday and Wednesday market. Fees cover the cost of promoting our market through advertising, the weekly coupon giveaway and our annual membership fee with the Iowa Farmers Market Association. Vendors may pay in advance or the first time you come to the market. All vendors must sign a waiver to participate in the market (last page of this packet.) Please make checks payable to: **Kossuth County Farmers Market.** To pay in advance, please mail the check and signed waiver to: Joanne Roepke Bode; 2304 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Algona, IA 50511.

### GUEST VENDOR BOOTHS

- A limited number of vendor spots are available for free to non-profit organizations, as space allows. Examples might be the Boy Scouts selling popcorn, church bake sale, Rotary Club, etc. The usual vendor rules and regulations apply.
- The focus of this market is homegrown food and homemade crafts. Guest vendor tables are intended to support community organizations. Individuals selling Scentsy, Tupperware, and other home-based business products are typically not part of this market. However, there are other vendor shows throughout the Kossuth County area that may be a better fit for those types of products.

### VENDOR RULES

#### What to bring and expect:

- Bring your own tables and display items. The number of tables allowed per vendor depends on how many vendors are participating, due to space.
- Food items must be displayed off the ground.
- You may bring your own tent or canopy if you like.
- All food vendors are asked to display a sign with your business name, address, city, state and zip code. This can be handwritten, if you prefer.
- Please clean up your area after the market ends and keep it free of litter.
- If you plan to accept Farmers Market Nutrition Program WIC/Senior checks for fresh produce, produce must be grown in Iowa and your certification with the program must be current.
- All baked goods must be homemade and follow the list of guidelines under regulations.
- All other food items must comply with the rules stated in this document.

#### What not to bring or do:

- Garage sale/flea market items are not allowed. Homemade crafts and creations are welcome.
- Vendors are not allowed to bring pets or animals to the market.
- Do not drive or park on the grass. The Carnegie Lawn is not our property - we are guests in this space.
- No smoking, tobacco use or alcohol is allowed at the market by vendors during market hours.

#### What vendors receive:

- Vendors receive an assigned spot, the location of which is based on potential attendance and vendor preferences. Once you are assigned a spot, please remain in that place for the market season.
- Plastic bags are provided through the Iowa Farmers Market Association and Iowa Farm Bureau. Bags are available on a first come, first serve basis while supplies last. Ask the market manager for details.

- The market is promoted through local media and social media, as well as through a direct mail campaign to past farmers market shoppers.

### **Vendor Rule enforcement:**

We anticipate that most vendors will comply with the market rules, but a process is in place for when that does not occur. Complaints against any vendor regarding the rules should be submitted to the market manager for investigation. Vendors failing to comply with the rules and regulations will be given up to two warnings. If a third incident occurs, the vendor will forfeit his/her privileges as a market participant and will not be allowed to attend future markets.

### **SAFE SHOPPING AT THE MARKET**

To protect the health and safety of our customers and vendors please practice healthy habits while at the market, including staying home if you are ill. If a vendor currently has COVID-19, is currently exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or another serious, contagious illness, please do not attend the market.

### **TAX PERMITS**

An **Iowa State Sales Tax Permit** is only required for selling non-food items such as cut flowers, green plants, crafts, etc. For more information visit: <http://www.iowa.gov/tax/> Look for a link "Apply for a Permit"

### **FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM**

Vendors accepting **Iowa Farmer's Market Nutrition Program** checks (WIC and Senior certificates) for fresh produce items must be certified and display their official sign with permit number with current sticker. Training sessions are offered each spring. Growers must attend a training session every three years to be certified.

To become a certified vendor in the FMNP, a grower is required to:

- reside and grow eligible foods within Iowa or a neighboring state in a county adjacent to Iowa's border;
- be 18 years of age or older and submit a completed and signed certified vendor application and agreement to the department;
- participate in training on FMNP rules and procedures through attendance at an entire session of one of the six scheduled training meetings conducted by department staff;
- indicate intent to participate in one or more authorized farmers markets/farm stands for a majority of weeks of the market season.

**If you are not certified** to accept WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Checks please **do not accept them, as you won't be able to cash them.**

Visit <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/>. Go to "More" from the top menu, then "Programs," then Farmers Market Nutrition Program. When signing up as a vendor, our market is listed under **Kossuth County**, not under Algona. For more information or assistance from IDALS with this program, contact Paul Ovrom at 515-242-6239 or email [paul.ovrom@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:paul.ovrom@iowaagriculture.gov) or John Krzton-Presson at 515-725-1179 or email [john.krzton-presson@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:john.krzton-presson@iowaagriculture.gov).

### **LOCAL PROMOTIONS & COUPONS**

The Kossuth County Farmers' Market offers a limited number of coupons to local organizations, some of which are donated and others of which are purchased. Vendors may redeem these with the market manager.

### **REGULATIONS: ITEMS YOU CAN SELL AT THE MARKET**

According to regulations from Iowa Inspections and Appeals Food and Consumer Safety Bureau, the following products may be sold at the market without additional licensing by the vendor:

- **Fresh Fruits and Vegetables** which are whole and uncut
- **Bakery products** which are not potentially hazardous. This includes breads, cakes, doughnuts, pastries, buns, rolls, cookies, biscuits and pies (meat pies and other specific types are not allowed.)
- Baked goods that **CAN NOT** be sold: meat pies, soft pies, custard-filled and cream-filled products.

- A binder with ingredients of baked goods offered must be available onsite at your booth (ingredients only, not the entire recipe). All baked goods must be labeled with the following information:
  - Common name of the food
  - Name and address of the person who prepared the food.
  - Allergen information: Peanuts, Soybeans (not refined soybean oil), Milk, Eggs, Tree Nuts (almonds, pecans or walnuts) and Wheat.
- **Honey** is allowed.
- **Non-potentially hazardous food products**, such as jams, jellies, candy and dried noodles. Jams and jellies are the only home-canned items allowed. Only jams and jellies that meet the Standard of Identity for jams and jellies specified in [21 CFR Part 150](#) are exempt from licensing. Pepper jams and jellies are not allowed.
- **Dried herbs, dried and cut flowers, and plants** are allowed.
- **Homemade craft items** are allowed.
- **Fresh shell eggs:** Eggs must be kept at 45 degrees during the market. Used egg cartons are permissible if you cover up the name of the company on the packaging with your own label.

### ITEMS NOT ALLOWED WITHOUT ADDITIONAL LICENSES

The following products may not be sold at any Iowa Farmers Market without providing the market manager with a copy of a valid and current license. Visit this website for more information about licensing:

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-consumer-safety/food-safety-license-applications>

### **Meat, poultry and dairy products or cooked foods (cooked foods are separate from baked goods).**

These items are considered potentially hazardous food products (foods that require temperature control for food safety reasons). Frozen or refrigerated meat can be sold if the proper inspections and licensing is in place. Vendors who wish to sell meat must obtain a Mobile Food Unit or Farmers Market license. For more information specific to meat and poultry call the Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau through IDALS at 515-281-5321.

**Home style canned goods.** With the exception of fruit-based jams and jellies that meet the Standard of Identity for jams and jellies specified in 21 CFR Part 150, no “home style” canned goods can be sold at farmers markets. Home-canned pickles and salsa are not allowed.

**Cut or prepared produce**, such as half a watermelon. This requires a hazardous food product license. This does not apply to samples.

**Homemade flavored vinegars** and/or oils or herb-vinegar mixtures

**Wild Morel mushrooms** – Wild Morel mushrooms can only be sold at a Farmers Market if each mushroom was inspected and found to be safe by a Certified Morel Mushroom Identification Expert. Iowa State University offers this certification course each spring.

### LICENSE YOUR SCALE

Do you weigh your produce before selling it? IDALS recommends a NTEP approved scale, and getting your scale licensed by the Iowa Weights and Measures Dept. There is a modest fee for this. For more information, contact Ivan Hankins at 515-725-1492 or [Ivan.hankins@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Ivan.hankins@iowaagriculture.gov).

### SUPPORT AND EDUCATION FOR LOCAL FOODS

The following organizations support education and training opportunities for Iowa farmers. Check out various conferences, field days, resources and networking opportunities:

- Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association: <http://www.ifvga.org/>
- Practical Farmers of Iowa: <http://www.practicalfarmers.org/>
- Healthy Harvest of North Iowa: <https://www.healthyharvestni.com/>
- Iowa Farmers Market Association: <http://www.iafarmersmarkets.org/home.html>

