

Golden Spread Farmers Market Rules

The Market Rules are to be followed by all those who participate in the Golden Spread Farmers Market.

1. Membership Selection.

a. Membership dues are \$100 per year for farmers, and \$70 for cottage food vendors.

Membership dues are due and payable at the annual meeting. Returning farmers must pay membership dues before June 20 to avoid a late fee.

Membership dues received after June 20 will be assessed a late fee of \$50.

b. Membership is open to farmers, home gardeners, and cottage food producers that grow and produce within 150 miles of Amarillo.

c. Submission of applications does not guarantee acceptance. Golden Spread Farmers Market reserves the right to refuse membership.

d. Farm visits by member volunteers will be made between June 20 and July 1 to ensure a member is producing what is being offered for sale. Farm visits will only be made to farmers that have paid their membership dues.

e. Every new member will have a farm visit and will be exempt from late fee the first year of membership.

f. Membership fees are nonrefundable if membership is accepted. If a farm application is not accepted for membership, the fee will be returned to the applicant.

2. Locations and times.

a. The Market is open from 7 a.m. until sellout Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, from approximately July 1st until the first freeze.

b. The Market is held at Sunset Marketown, 3701 Plains Boulevard, Amarillo, Texas.

3. Dues and stall fees.

a. Annual, regular: The Annual Dues are payable with your membership form. Prospective members should pay their dues when they have been notified of their selection. Checks should be made payable to Golden Spread Farmers Market and mailed to

Denise Brinkman, 3680 Mack Road, Amarillo TX, 79118. Annual dues must be paid prior to attending your first Market day.

b. Stall fees are \$20 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and \$30 on Saturdays per stall for farmers. For cottage food vendors the fees are \$15 on weekdays and \$20 on Saturday. It is the responsibility of farmers to pay their stall fees before leaving each day. Any attempt to avoid paying stall fees will result in farmer not being allowed to set up at the next attended market day until past due fee and current day fee is paid.

4. Health Rules

b. Any produce cut or peeled for display such as cantaloupes, watermelons, and corn, must be covered by plastic wrap immediately.

c. Produce must be stored a minimum of 6 inches off the ground.

d. Any processed uncooked product must be kept on ice and displayed in a container with ice. Just laying the product on top of an ice package on the display table is not acceptable.

e. Samples can be given out provided all Health Department regulations pertaining to samples are followed.

The following rules are for offering samples at the market, with a sample considered a bite-size portion:

Distribute the samples in a sanitary manner;

Have potable water available;

Wash any produce intended for sampling with potable water to remove any visible dirt or contamination.

When preparing the samples, either wear clean, disposable plastic gloves or observe proper hand washing techniques immediately before preparation;

Use smooth, nonabsorbent, and easily cleaned (i.e. metal or plastic) utensils and cutting surfaces for cutting samples, or use disposable utensils and cutting surfaces;

Samples of cut produce and other potentially hazardous foods shall be maintained at a temperature of 41°F or below and discarded within two hours after cutting or preparation.

5. No Buy Rule

a. In order to ensure the freshest and highest quality produce at the Farmers Market,

and to insure customers they are dealing directly with the farmers, members must sell only products they make or grow themselves. Buying products for resale at the market will not be allowed, except from another member attending the market that day.

b. Items offered for sale must be fresh and of the highest quality.

c. Emergency Clause: If a member is unable to make it to the market, another member may sell the products of the absent member. This may only happen 3 times during a season and the identity of the absent member must be made clear to the customer.

6. Crafts

Members of the market that are selling vegetables or cottage foods may also sell their own self-made crafts. There will be no "craft only" vendors.

7. Signs

Signs must be displayed in a manner that does not interfere with other members' stalls or access.

8. Setting up at Market

a. All displays should be neat and tasteful.

b. Prices should be posted for each item offered for sale.

c. Scales for the purpose of selling product by the pound are not allowed at market because of state regulations. Scales must be certified by the Texas Department of Weights and Measures. Scales must be recertified each time they are moved.

d. Members must maintain a clear walkway for customers to move from one vendor to another without obstruction. This is important and will be enforced by the officers and board members.

e. Members must park their vehicles in a safe and space-efficient manner. Generally, it works best to leave enough space between your setup and the next member's so the customers do not become confused as to whose goods are whose.

9. Presentations

a. Members must present themselves in an appropriate manner, dress, and state of cleanliness.

b. Shirts must be worn.

- c. Members must behave in a cooperative manner with other members at all times.
- d. Consumption of alcoholic beverages by members at market is prohibited.
- e. No hawking or calling out to attract buyers to your goods is permitted.

10. Picking up

a. It is a condition of our use of this site that the Market will leave the lot exactly as we find it each day. All trash generated by the Market must be cleaned up by the members.

11. Violation of the rules

a. Upon receiving a complaint that a member has violated a rule, other than the No Buy and the Health Rule, the President shall appoint 3 members to investigate the complaint. If the majority of these members find that a violation has occurred, the Board, a quorum of which shall be considered 4 of its members, shall meet to consider the report of the investigation committee. If the Board, by a majority vote of those present, find that a violation has taken place, it may cancel the membership of the accused member. Any member subject to such an action, will be notified and given the opportunity to answer the charge at the meeting of the Board called to consider such charges.

b. The Board may at any time during Market season perform random or spot inspections of any member farm as deemed necessary by a majority vote of the Board members.

c. Upon receiving a complaint from a Market member that another member has violated any Market rules, the complaining member will be asked to post a \$75 complaint fee. The President shall appoint 3 members to investigate the complaint. The complaining member may be one of the 3 members appointed to investigate the complaint. If the complaint is verified, the Board of Directors is authorized to immediately enforce corrective action, including immediate and permanent expulsion from the Association.

d. Violation of Health Rules: A violation of the Health Rules observed by a Board Member will initially result in a final written warning (receipt of a copy of these rules constitutes Member's first written warning) and a fine of \$25. Any subsequent violations observed by a Board Member will result in immediate expulsion from the Market that day and cancellation of membership of the violating member. Membership fee will not be refunded.

e. Loud, abusive, or profane language or threats of physical violence will not be allowed and a member can be expelled from the Market for this type of behavior.