

UDAF's COVID-19 Food Establishment Permit Guidelines for Farmers Markets

UPDATE – Issued June 9, 2020

“Orange Phase”

Please be advised that Food Establishment Permits for Farmers Markets do not supersede more restrictive city or county permitting authority or public health orders. Farmers Markets requesting Food Establishment Permits must meet with their local health department before Food Establishment Permits will be issued.

Farmers markets are an essential part of our local food systems providing direct sales outlets for farmers and ranchers to access potential consumers who can purchase safe, local produce and other locally produced agricultural products. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) users benefit from shopping at farmers markets as they are able to double the dollar value for fresh food purchases.

Because the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) will continue to issue “Food Establishment Permits” required by Utah farmers markets which include the sale of processed or prepared foods, and in order to affect the Governor’s guidance on staying safe during this pandemic, we are distributing these guidelines, which must be implemented in order for a farmers market to receive a Food Establishment Permit.

While UDAF is committed to affecting the state’s most recent COVID-19 guidelines, be aware that these policies may be modified in the interest of public health or at the Governor’s direction. Permit holders agree to be bound by the regulations currently in place, or any future guidelines established in the interest of public health or at the Governor’s direction, and understand that failure to follow the guidelines may result in the loss of a permit.

For purposes of this directive, a "farmers market" means a market where a producer of a food product sells only a fresh, raw, whole, unprocessed, and unprepared food item UCA 4-5-102 (6). If a farmers market includes the sales of processed or prepared foods such as cheese, meat, or bottled foods, they are required to obtain a Food Establishment Permit from UDAF and vendors selling processed or prepared foods at a farmers market must also be registered with UDAF, and display their company’s Permit at their booth.

- One handwashing station or hand sanitizer station is required per every five booths
- Booths must be 10’ apart
- Farmers markets are required to enforce CDC social distancing recommendations of at least 6’ apart, and provide marked spacing to ensure compliance
- Farmers markets should encourage “tap” or online payment options when possible
- Vendors shall change gloves and sanitize point-of-sale equipment between transactions
- All vendors are required to wear gloves; those who collect money must not handle food items
- The farmers market area shall be delineated to provide shoppers and vendors with a 6’

social distance

- A separate entrance and exit is required on opposite sides of the farmer's market area to create a linear flow of pedestrian traffic
- Farmers markets must provide marked waiting positions to enter the farmers market with a 6' social distance
- Farmers market vendor offerings are limited to prepackaged meats, cheeses, raw fruits, vegetables and other agricultural products
- Farmers markets shall not have art/craft vendors
- Farmers markets shall not have food sampling
- Farmers markets shall not have food service vendors
- Farmers markets shall not have any form of entertainment, or demonstrations in order to remain an essential service
- Produce and goods may be handled by vendors only
- Vendors (selling fresh produce) may only sell whole, uncut produce
- Farmers markets should encourage shoppers to wear face masks
- Farmers markets should recommend only one shopper per household attend the market
- Farmers markets should consider adding pre-orders for boxed or grab and go options
- Farmers markets should encourage vendors to participate in delivery and online distribution options
- Farmers markets are encouraged to maintain their existing nutrition incentive programs (i.e. SNAP, Double-up Food Bucks)
- Vendors who do sell pre-package products are required to be registered with the Utah Department of Agriculture and display their company's current Food Establishment Permit at their booth

For questions regarding these recommendations, please contact Travis Waller at twaller@utah.gov or Tim Lane at tlane@utah.gov or 801.317.7595