

UDAF's COVID-19 Food Establishment Permit Guidelines for Farmers Markets
UPDATE - Issued May 5, 2021

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, we are distributing these guidelines.

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 must also be registered with UDAF, and display their company's Permit at their booth.

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.

Most of the state's restrictions have been lifted, but we believe that our guidelines are prudent and in the interest of public health.

- One handwashing station or hand sanitizer station is **recommended** per every five booths
- Booths **should** be 6' apart
- Farmers markets **should** continue to enforce CDC social distancing recommendations of at least 6' apart
- Farmers markets **should** encourage “tap” or online payment options when possible
- Vendors **should** change gloves and sanitize point-of-sale equipment between transactions
- The wearing of face masks by vendors and shoppers is at the **discretion of** the organization sponsoring the farmers market
- 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.

- Homemade Food Act vendors are **required** to follow the guidance listed in Utah Code 4-5a, Home Consumption and Homemade Food Act.

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