

# WHARTON COUNTY FARMERS MARKET

## Vendor Rules & Regulations

The WCFM hours are Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. We are seasonal, generally 6-8 weeks for Spring/Summer, 6-8 weeks for Fall/Winter and are closed on Federal Holidays. Vendors must be ready to sell by the opening hour and stay until the market closes. The market is located at the Wharton County Junior College parking lot at Boling Hwy. (FM 1301) and Junior College Blvd.

Vendors must grow or produce the products they sell at the market and maintain a high quality standard throughout the season. Vendors may name a qualified agent (family member, friend, etc) to handle sales at the farmers market. The agent must be fully educated and knowledgeable about the product, how it is used, grown or produced and be able to communicate this clearly to the customers. A list of all the agents will be supplied on the application to the Board prior to the market.

Volunteer groups may have the use of one booth space at the market without cost.

Fees:

Booth Rental: Booth space is 10' x 25'. Vendors will provide their own tables, tent, chairs, table decoration, etc. Farmers will be allowed to back into their booth area and sell from the tail gate of their truck.

Booth Fee: \$50 per Season or \$10 per Saturday per vendor. Collection will be done at least 30 min before end of market each day.

Vendors must keep their merchandise and tables neatly within the designated space unless authorized by the Board. It is required that all shade equipment including umbrellas, tents and tarps are secured to tables and vehicles when applicable. They must further be weighted sufficiently as to be stable during rain and windy conditions to avoid any potential accidents. Sufficient weight constitutes at least 20 lbs per tent leg.

Standards of Conduct:

Vendors must be:

- Knowledgeable about their product and be able to communicate that clearly to the customers.
- Courteous, professional and presentable at all times.
- Able to display products in a sanitary, presentable and attractive manner.
- Honest and conduct themselves at all times in a courteous and business-like manner.

Vendors are expected to dress and behave in a polite manner and practice clean personal hygiene. Inappropriate language or behavior, harassment or abuse toward another vendor or customer will not be tolerated. Intoxication will result in vendor expulsion from the market. Vendors experiencing difficulty with customers are encouraged to refer the matter to the Board. Vendors are expected to treat each other, staff, customers and officials with respect. They should refer all complaints about participants or the Market Rules and Regulations in writing to the Board.

It is the responsibility of each vendor to maintain a clean space and to leave the area free of debris during sales and after market closure. All vendors providing samples must supply a trash can for public use. Vendors are responsible for the disposal of their own trash. Any debris collected or produced during the market must be removed and taken with the vendor and disposed of off-site, including ice and water

brought to maintain product freshness. Ice and water may be dumped by the trees and not on pavement as it's a liability issue.

All vendors are required to post signs clearly identifying their name or the name of their farm/business. Each vendor shall set their own prices and they must be posted. Prices should be set in keeping with customer satisfaction and with consideration of other market vendors.

A vendor who offers a product for sale at the WCFM shall have the sole responsibility to obtain and maintain any license required to sell or distribute such product.

WCFM is not responsible for product liability or the paying of sales taxes for individual vendors.

All vendors using the term "Organic" must be in compliance with the National Standards. All vendors selling by weight must use an approved commercial scale.

Craft vendors: All crafts offered for sale must be handmade. Any craft/artwork sold must be the work of the vendor. All craft/artwork must be the original work of no more than two individuals.

The Market Board Members have the right to issue warnings and/or fines to any seller who violates market rules. Vendors who do not comply with the market rules may forfeit their right to the privilege of selling at the market, upon review of the board.

Questions regarding these rules and regulations should be addressed to Board Member, Bessie Konvicka, President at (979) 532-4369 or Jane Holmes, Secretary at (979) 943-6998.

**RELEASE STATEMENT:**

In addition to the previously mentioned VENDOR RULES & REGULATIONS, WCFM vendors agree to be solely responsible for any and all property loss or personal injury or any other claim or demand for damages as the result of or arising out of participation in said WCFM. Participants agree to hold harmless the WCFM organization, its officers, agents, representatives, employees, associates, and members, from any and all liability for loss, injury or damages to any person or property occasioned by or sustained by reason of participant's participation in the WCFM. By signing, I certify that I understand these conditions and rules and regulations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_