

East Vassalboro Farmers' Market

Market Rules

[Adopted February 2009]

1. LOCATION AND TIME:

- a. The East Vassalboro Farmers' Market (EVFM) is located in the East Vassalboro Grange Main St, Rt. 32, East Vassalboro, 5 miles south of the Winslow/Vassalboro town lines.
- b. The Market is officially open every Friday from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM from the Third Friday in May through the first Friday in October.
- c. The market will be held rain or shine.
- d. Dates, times and locations may vary from year to year as decided by the membership.

2. MARKET SPONSOR

- a. The EVFM will be sponsored by the East Vassalboro Grange, a nonprofit organization offering space to hold the market.

3. MEMBERSHIP:

- a. The voting membership shall consist of one representative from each participating vendor, CSA, CFA or family. One vote per membership is allowed.
- b. All new members are subject to the approval of the current voting membership or a committee appointed by the membership.
- c. Application for membership is open to: all Maine farmers; local meat, poultry and dairy producers; local fishermen or distributors of Maine seafood products; producers of fiber products; producers of value-added items such as baked goods and preserves; craftspeople, etc. handicrafts vendors may not represent more than 20% of total market vendors.
- d. Applications for membership are due March 15. New applications will be reviewed during the March 22nd business meeting. This meeting is mandatory for new applicants as part of the application process and new applicants must attend for their application to be considered. Applications may be accepted

with the stipulation that certain products on the application are excluded from acceptance and may not be brought to market.

e. Applications submitted by prospective members will be voted upon when there is sufficient space to allow an additional vendor. If there is no space available, a waiting list will be maintained. Late applications will be considered only if they would fill a Market Void and, at the discretion of the members, may be considered as nonvoting members particularly if they are both late and seasonal.

f. All continuing members will complete applications annually.

g. Simple majority votes carry the motion.

4. ATTENDANCE:

a. Vending members are expected to stay until close of market on each market day unless they are "sold out." CSA/CFA members are not required to have established hours but are encouraged to stay as long as able to promote cooperative relationships with other members and answer questions from consumers and may be asked to have their booths in places where setting up and breaking down will not be disruptive to the other vendors or customers.

b. Members may arrive up to one hour prior to opening time for the purpose of setting up their displays. Members must be ready for business at opening time (2 pm).

c. Any member who cannot attend a market day must notify the Market Manager so that the space may be filled in by others.

d. Members are encouraged to attend all pre-season business meetings, which will be held in January and March.

e. Members are encouraged to participate in all Market activities.

5. DUES:

a. Dues include an annual, non-refundable fee of \$25, due upon application of the current market year; a daily market fee of \$5 for each market day attended will be assessed for each vendor, payable to the Market Manager on each market day. CSA and CFA vendors who do not sell but only "drop off" to their share holders will not be assessed this fee in 2009.

b. Checks should be made payable to the treasurer and mailed with their application to: the market masters.

6. STALLS:

- a. The number of available spaces will be determined annually by the membership.
- b. No more than 50% of spaces will be comprised of one type of product.
- c. Three quarters of the market spaces will be assigned by the Association to members who desire an assigned space, leaving the remainder of the spaces available to members who do not request an assigned space. Space assignments will be determined by the Members present at Opening Day, and if a Member is absent for Opening Day their assigned space (should they desire one) will be determined the first day they attend market of the season.
- d. Members are limited to one vehicle/booth per market.
- e. Members are expected to maintain a neat and tasteful display. Each member is required to clean up his/her space at the end of the market day. Trash is carry-in, carry-out.
- f. No vendor will bring his/her dog to Market.
- g. If there is a space that is desirable to more than 1 vendor, every effort will be made to accommodate this either by rotation or other creative means or by the consensus of the members.

7. PRODUCTS:

- a. All products, which include but are not limited to: vegetables, seedlings, herbs, preserves, fresh-cut and dried flowers, meats, poultry, seafood, dairy products, crafts, etc., sold at the EVFM must be grown or made by the vendor with the following exception: Vendors may arrange to sell specific Maine grown or Maine-made products with prior approval of the majority of the members as long as these products do not exceed 25% of the vendor's display or on-site availability of product. When possible, vendors should submit their plans to sell "Buy-in" products with their applications but must have approval at least one week in advance of offering those products.
- b. "Buy-in" goods may not compete against other member-produced goods of the same kind and must be labeled to indicate where it was produced. The regulation of Buy-Ins will be conducted in an informal manner: if a vendor wishes to buy-in a product that is also available from a vendor that produces the product themselves, the person buying-in the product may bring the product to market providing they receive the prior approval from the vendor that produces the product themselves.
- c. Vendors wishing to bring new items must so state on their annual applications for review by the membership. Those wishing to introduce new products after the beginning of the season must notify vendors offering similar products and obtain membership approval.
- d. Farm visits by member volunteers will be made as need to ensure a member's production of what is being offered for sale. Every new member will have a farm visit. Also, one third of the membership will

be visited each year to build neighborliness and to keep up to date with members changing and expanding products.

8. APPLICABLE STATE LICENSES & REGULATIONS:

a. Knowledge of and compliance with all state regulations regarding the production, labeling, display and sale of all products at the EVFM is the responsibility of the individual vendor.

9. PRESENTATION:

a. Vendors should present themselves in an appropriate manner and dress.

b. There will be no alcohol consumption or any smoking on the Market premises by any member.

c. There will be no unsportsmanlike conduct, no hawking of products and no conduct that is detrimental to the market.

d. Vendors must display farm or business names and addresses in a prominent manner each market day.

e. Vendors will provide some means of posting prices of all products offered for sale. The CSA/CFA who are not vending must have clear signage that indicates their products are pre-sold.

10. NON-COMPLIANCE:

a. When two or more vendors on any market day believe that the conduct or selling practices of another vendor are detrimental to the Market, they may ask the Market Manager to address the issue with the vendor.

b. If the situation cannot be resolved by the Market Manager, a special meeting of the membership shall be called. A majority of those present at that special meeting may require that the detrimental practices be changed to conform to membership standards. Failure to do so may be cause for immediate dismissal if so voted by a majority of all market members.