

Aiken County Farmers' Market

Operated by the City of Aiken Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department

Contact Information

General Information – 803-642-7761

Table Assignments (leave message) – 803-293-2214 – Call by Thursday 6pm to reserve a table

Paul Widener – (Market Manager) – 642-7761

Jeff Metz (Superintendent) – 803-642-7652 or email jmetz@cityofaikensc.gov

Mission

The Aiken County Farmers' Market is a small family farmers and small family growers market. Its purpose is to provide locally grown farm fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, herbs, plants, cut flowers and alternative farming and/or sustainable agricultural products to the citizens of, and visitors to, the City of Aiken, Aiken County, South Carolina.

Location

The Market is located at 897 Richland Avenue East (Williamsburg Street between Richland and Park Avenues).

Hours of Operation

April: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday; 7am – 2pm

May – Sept: Monday – Saturday; 7am – 2pm

Oct. – Dec: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday; 7am – 2pm

Daily Table Rent

The daily rental fee is \$5 per table for Aiken County Residents and \$10 per table for all others. Two (2) tables may be rented by each Participant/Family during the peak seasons. If a participant needs additional space and it is available, the Market Manager can assign one more additional table to that participant. Rent is due at the time of arrival and may be collected any time thereafter.

Table Assignment Order

Tables under the market are assigned in the following order:

1. Aiken County Farmers/Growers
2. South Carolina Farmers/Growers
3. Aiken County Artisans, Crafters or Bakers

Under categories #1 and #2, preference is given based on the number of years a participant has been renting tables at the Market.

- Participant with over twenty (20) years: their spouse, child or grandchild has grand-fathered permanent table assignments. The tradition of Family Tables will be maintained.
- Participant who have been coming to the Market for over ten (10) years have permanent table assignments.
- Participant with more than 5 years, but less than 10 years will be assigned tables based on seniority.
- Participant with less than five (5) years will have random table assignments and will be eligible for only one table during peak season, unless space becomes available.

The committee will make every effort to assign the same tables each week, but this may not always be possible.

Space is granted under the Market canopy to Artisans, Crafters or Bakers after all the small family Farmers and/or Growers have been assigned tables. Artisans, Crafters or Bakers may reserve table space, on a stand-by basis, with the understanding that they may not actually receive a table under the main canopy. There will be a maximum of ten (10) additional tables provided in the parkway for those who choose to utilize that space.

New Participants

All new participants must fill out an application, arrange for a site inspection, and meet the requirements in this document. It takes approximately 10 business days to before you will be able to sell at the market.

Table Assignment Information

Table assignments will be posted by the Market Manager or Committee by 11 a.m. on Friday. Those participants that reserve a table and do not come to the Market, thus leaving an empty table under the canopy on Saturday, must pay table rent for that day. If a participant cannot attend Saturday's Market, they must contact the Market Manager or Committee member before 10 am on Friday, to allow time to reassign the table and not be responsible for rent. If there has been no communication, the table will be reassigned after 8 a.m. on Saturday. A participant will not be given another table assignment until all past due rent is paid. Participants arriving on Saturday without prior communication with the committee/manager and expecting to rent a table for that day will be assigned a random table if space is available.

Requirements to Sell

- A. A list of products, including resell items, to be sold at the market with the origin of that product. This list will be displayed on each participant's table while they are selling.
- B. Participants must live or farm in South Carolina and sign the Participation Agreement.
- C. Participant agrees to a site inspection(s) conducted by the Market Manager as deemed necessary. All new participants must have a site inspection prior to selling.
- D. A farmer/grower must grow at least 50% of the items on their table every day. 50% of the items on the table must be in season and grown by the farmer. The other 50% must be South Carolina grown produce and labeled with the origin of the product. Also, resale produce grown outside of Aiken County cannot be sold before that produce comes into season within Aiken County.
- E. Artisans, Crafters and/or Bakers can only sell items that sustain the Farmers' Market theme of quality farm fresh local produce and products. All crafters must list their products on the application, which must be approved by the Market Manager and committee.
- F. Any food/coffee vendor must submit certification that the food items that are offered for sale have been prepared in a South Carolina DHEC or Department of Agriculture approved Kitchen. Each participant must also label the producers information and a list of ingredients. Food samples must be served individually. All Certifications must be displayed while selling at the market.
- G. Participant must have a clean waterproof tablecover.
- H. Items requiring refrigeration such as eggs, milk, meat, shelled peas or beans may be sold at the Market if kept cool on ice packs and in a clean cooler while meeting all DHEC requirements. Farmers are permitted to put signs on coolers for items that must remain in coolers to identify the items.
- I. By June 1 of each calendar year Participant's produce scales must be certified by the appropriate South Carolina agency.
- J. Any participant that sells eggs must have a current State of SCDA Wholesale license. The license must be displayed. Eggs must be labeled according to State Regulations and kept at 45° at all times.
- K. If any item offered for sale is labeled organic, the farmer must show proof of certification from a USDA group such as CSFA or OCIA. All certifications must be displayed on the table.

Market Manager and Disciplinary Action

The Market Manager is authorized to enforce all Rules and Regulations, collect fees and handle disputes. The Manager has the authority to remove poor quality produce from any table. The Manager and/or Committee will make table assignments.

Any violation of the Market Rules and Regulations, City or County codes, state laws, or federal laws or regulations may result in disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may range from a counseling notice to removal from the Market. APRT Director or other APRT staff may remove any offender who does not follow the Farmers' Market Rules and Regulations. Based upon the severity of the offense, participants may be immediately and permanently expelled from the Market. The length of any suspension may range from a minimum of two sales days to a maximum of 5 sale days. The Participant has the right to appeal any disciplinary action, by filing it in writing with the APRT Director. Any appeal must be submitted within 48 hours of any suspension, expulsion or other ruling.

Aiken County Farmers Market Rules and Regulations

1. Each Participant is responsible for maintaining and cleaning the area around their table(s). Trash cans are available to vendors for refuse disposal.
2. The area around the table must be barrier free. Any chairs must be kept behind tables at all times. All entrances/exits should be display/product free.
3. There will be no use of any tobacco products under the Market or customer parking areas. The Smoking Areas designated are the grassy areas in front of, or behind, the Market.
4. Possessing firearms or fireworks, gambling, using alcohol or illegal drugs, or engaging in disorderly conduct by market participants, their employees, family members, friends, or customers, is prohibited.
5. Pets are not permitted under the Market canopy. Guide dogs are allowed. The selling of live animals is prohibited.
6. Participants must have and use hand wipes or waterless hand sanitizer to keep their hands as clean as possible at all times. Proper hand washing techniques, as set forth in SCDHEC regulations, must be practiced at all times.
7. Abusive, profane, threatening, or harassing language or actions towards City officials, Market Staff, other Participants, or Customers will not be tolerated. All Market Participants will be responsible for the action of their employees or other individuals behind their tables.
8. Individuals, with knowledge of the items for sale, must be working at the table. Children (14 yr. or younger) will be allowed to sell if an adult (18 yr. or older), who is knowledgeable of the items, supervises them at all times. The minimum age for a vendor to sell by themselves is 15 years old.
9. Fraudulent, dishonest, or deceptive merchandising or deceptive statements about a product are not allowed. All statements must be approved by the APRT Director or designee, Market Manager, and/or the Farmers' Market Committee.
10. Solicitation for products, services, or charitable contributions by vendors other than Market Participants is not permitted.
11. Participants have 15 minutes to unload. After unloading, the vehicle must be moved to one of the designated parking areas. Spaces around the Market are reserved for customers. Designated Parking for Farmers is from the rear of the Market Buildings to Park Avenue or in the neighboring Church's parking lot. Participants are not allowed to park trailers at the Farmers' Market.
12. No selling is permitted from vehicles. Items can only be sold from Market-provided tables. Purchasing from peddlers is not allowed.
13. Sitting or lying on the tables is not permitted.
14. No fruit that is cut or peeled is allowed at the market.
14. Government issued Farmer Stall Signs can be hung with permission from the Market Manager. A banner may hang from the front of the table but should not be permanently mounted. No sign can be hung from the structure of the market.

The City of Aiken reserves the right to amend, add or delete to these Rules and Regulations as necessary to carry out the operation of the Aiken County Farmers Market. Participants will be notified of any additions, deletions or amendments to the Rules and Regulations.

**Aiken County Farmers' Market
PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City & County: _____ State & Zip Code: _____

Phone Numbers: _____ Email Address: _____

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the Aiken County Farmers' Market Rules and Regulations. I have read, understand and agree to comply with items listed under General Information.

I understand that violations of the Rules and Regulations may be grounds for suspension or expulsion from the Market. I understand that the City of Aiken Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism or the Market Manager can revoke selling privileges.

Participants must have an Approved Application, Emergency Notification Form, any applicable DHEC certifications, and product list on file with the Market Manager prior to participating at the Market.

I understand that I cannot legally sell any food products which are produced off-site which have not been labeled, processed and prepared in compliance with the South Carolina Food and Cosmetic Act or other appropriate Regulations. You may contact the South Carolina Department of Agriculture/Food and Cosmetic Section at (803)737-9690 with any questions you might have about this section.

I understand that the City of Aiken recommends that I carry my own liability insurance while participating in the Aiken County Farmer's Market.

I hereby release, jointly and severally, the APRT Department, the City of Aiken, its officers, employees, agents, and staff members from any losses, claims, damages, or lawsuits arising from my use of the Aiken County Farmers' Market by myself or my workers.

*Further - The City of Aiken, APRT, its agents and employees, shall not be liable to me, or any other person on these premises, during the term of this Agreement, for injury to, damage to, or loss of, property or any person on these premises. I further agree to indemnify the City of Aiken and APRT and hold them harmless from all damages, injuries, liabilities, losses, and expenses incurred by any person, or party, in any way, from my use of these premises. I also release the City of Aiken, APRT, and its agents and employees from all damages, injuries, liabilities, losses, and expenses incurred by myself in any way from the use of these premises and equipment. I also agree to indemnify the City of Aiken and the APRT against all costs, including attorney's fees, arising out of my use of this property and these premises.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Received by Market Manager on _____.

Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
City of Aiken



Farmers' Market Application

and
Emergency Notification Form

Participant's Name: _____

Address: _____

City and County: _____

State and Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Category: _____
_____ (1) Aiken County Farmer/Grower
_____ (2) South Carolina Farmer/Grower
_____ (3) Aiken County Resident, Artisan or Crafter

In Case of Emergency Notify

Name (Contact 1): _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Number at Home: _____

Phone Number at Work: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Name (Contact 2): _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Number at Home: _____

Phone Number at Work: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

APRT Staff Approval: _____

Date: _____

The original of this form will be kept in the APRT Administrative Office.
A copy of this form will be kept at the Farmers' Market.

