

Mableton Farmers Market 2018 Rules and Regulations

Mission: To provide area residents with an alternative fresh produce shopping venue and an opportunity to connect with neighbors in the Mableton community; to encourage consumers to buy local, buy healthy and buy smart; to support and promote local farmers by providing a community-based Market where they can sell their goods directly to patrons.

The Mableton Farmers Market (hereinafter referred to as the Market) is operated through a partnership between Mableton Improvement Coalition (MIC); Cobb County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department and Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH). Operational rules and regulations will be as agreed upon by the Market Committee, comprised of representatives from the above-listed organizations and a participating farmer vendor selected by the Market Manager, subject to approval by the MIC Board of Directors, Cobb County PRCA and CDPH. MIC will appoint a Market Manager to head Market Committee business affairs.

General Rules and Regulations

Participation in the Market as a vendor or customer is at the participant's own risk. The Market will not be held liable for any injury, loss or damage to person or property as delineated in the Indemnification and Hold Harmless agreement. Market vendors will sign and submit the vendor application and Indemnification and Hold Harmless agreement before being considered for Market participation.

The Market will be non-discriminatory in every respect. All vendors, customers and other Market attendees shall treat each other with respect and courtesy. Harassing, threatening or condescending behavior will not be tolerated.

The Market will operate as a grower/producer Market. Farmer vendors are required to produce the fruits, vegetables and packaged/processed foods they sell. A limited exception may be granted by the Market Committee when weather/growing conditions limit production to the point that the Market would otherwise not be viable. Supplemental produce, if approved, will have to be Georgia small farm-produced. "Farmer vendor" is defined as the grower and/or harvester of goods sold and includes the spouse, siblings, children, parents and employees of the applicant who assist in the cultivation, production and/or harvesting of fruits and vegetables to be sold. Farm visits may be performed by the Market Manager at any time before or during the Market season to verify farmer vendor production of products being sold at the Market.

Non-farmer vendors approved by Market Committee vote will be allowed to sell spices, seasonings, baked goods, certain processed foods and non-food items. The Market Committee will, at its discretion, allow up to two vendors to sell breads and other healthy baked items and up to two Arts and Crafts vendors.

All eligible vendors will participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and comply with all state and local government requirements pertaining to the sale of eligible foods in accordance with US Department of Agriculture guidelines and Wholesome Wave agreement published separately.

No live animals can be sold at the Market. Photos of animals for sale can be exhibited and information about them distributed.

Eggs and dairy items may be sold if the vendor is properly licensed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Food License and/or Permit Requirements

Vendors intending to sell prepared, processed and/or packaged food, unless exempted, must provide a copy of their current Georgia Department of Agriculture Food Sales Establishment License and/or a Cobb County Health Department Temporary Food Service Permit. All processed products will be labeled with the common name of the food, the name/address/phone number of the person who made the products, and a list of ingredients with the common name of each ingredient.

The following items are **exempt** from the requirement to provide a food sales license and/or food service permit: breads, cakes, cookies, pies, fresh produce (if organic, there must be an organic certificate available) home-processed jellies, jams, and honey. These items are exempted based on the Georgia Department of Agriculture Guidelines for Food Products Sold at Events Sponsored by Non-Profit Organizations.

Specifically **not exempted from food sales license and/or food permit** are meat products, eggs, dairy products, organic products without Organic Certification and low acid/acidified foods such as canned vegetables, pickles, salsa, etc.

Vendors will clearly label all processed products in accordance with applicable local, state and federal rules and regulations.

Market Location

The Market is located in the parking lot of the Mable House Complex at 5239 Floyd Road. For safety reasons, no vehicle traffic is allowed in the interior Market area during Market operation.

Market Schedule

The 2018 season Market will operate from 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. on Thursdays, starting June 7th and ending August 23rd. Vendors may set up beginning at 7:30 a.m. and must be ready to start by 8:30a.m. on Market day. The Market will operate rain or shine.

Presence

Market Committee-approved vendors are expected to be at the Market every business day from start to finish of operating hours with sufficient products to meet customer needs. Vendors must notify the Market Manager at least one day prior when unable to be present. Vendors may be terminated by the Market Manager for non-compliance two times in the same season.

Rental/Registration Fees

Rental/registration fees will not be charged.

Booth Space Assignment

Booth spaces are 10'x10' and will be assigned by the Market Manager. Vendors are responsible for setting up in their spaces and bringing their canopies or umbrellas. Tables/shelves are encouraged to keep products off the ground. Signage is permitted as approved by the Market Manager. Signage and products will not extend into the space of another vendor without that vendor's prior consent.

Cleanup

Vendors are responsible for cleaning up their areas and placing all trash in County-provided trash receptacles before departing each Market day. All vendors are required to be clear of the vending area by 1:00 p.m. Vendor participation may be terminated by the Market Manager for non-compliance two times in the same season.

Pricing, Weights, and Measures

Vendors will each operate as individual entities and, as such, will be responsible for setting their own prices, considering what is reasonable and customary. Pricing will be written on tags, cards or boards. Weights and measures are expected to be in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal rules and regulations.

Health Regulations

Vendors will comply with the sanitary rules and regulations of the County and State Health Departments. All produce and food items must be properly labeled, handled and/or prepared in accordance with all local, state and federal regulations.

Miscellaneous

No firearms, no alcoholic beverages, no smoking anywhere on the Mable House Complex property. The County provides restroom facilities in the Mable House Arts Center. The Market Committee reserves the right to revise the Market Rules and Regulations at any time.

Complaints

The Market Manager will have a table set up at or near the center of the Market area. Complaints of any kind against any vendor or customer shall be directed to the attention of the Market Manager. The Market Manager will resolve the issue independently or in consultation with the Market Committee, MIC, Cobb County PRCA and/or Cobb & Douglas Public Health as needed. The Market Manager has the right to warn, suspend or terminate vendor participation for cause.