

MERCER COUNTY FARMERS MARKET BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME

- A. The name of this market will be the Mercer County Farmers Market.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

- A. Provide farmers with a profitable, well organized and operated retail marketplace and to provide community supported agriculture.
- B. Ensure orderly operation while striking a fair balance between all participants, and to provide a legal basis to operate an official entity.
- C. Provide consumers with locally grown, good value farm products at a convenient location.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership categories include non-voting and voting, to be selected upon application. Voting membership must maintain market participation (40%) to be considered in “good standing”.
- B. Anyone who is actively engaged in the production of accepted products, whether on a full or part time basis and who **reside** in Mercer or adjoining counties (Anderson, Boyle, Garrard, Woodford, Washington and Jessamine) is eligible for membership.
- C. An associate member category is available for advisors or area leaders, voted in as such, with no voting privileges.
- D. Fees that can be imposed on vendors include an annual entry fee, sales day fee, and special project fees as determined by general membership.
- E. Fees are *not* refundable.
- F. Membership will run through application approval to season opening of the following year.

ARTICLE IV
MEETINGS

- A. Regular membership meetings will be held in the spring and fall of each year as determined by the board of directors.
- B. Special meetings can be called by the board of directors as needed.
- C. Meeting notices will be sent out at least one week in advance. A quorum required for a vote shall constitute 40% of members or 8 voting members present.
- D. Each voting membership in good standing has one vote on issues and by-law changes.
- E. Market-related issues shall be decided on the basis of a simple majority of votes cast. Types of issues requiring a vote include: changing the sales periods or locations, electing officers, setting membership/market fees, or entering agreements and terminating the farmers market.

ARTICLE V
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The board of directors shall consist of the 3 elected officers plus 3 members selected by the general membership.
- B. Term of office shall be one year with a maximum of three consecutive years in the same office. Elections are to be held at the first meeting by general membership to prepare for the next season of the farmers market. Officers *can* be re-elected. Officers must attend a minimum of 51% of markets per season.
- C. Duties of President: chairs the meetings, serves as contact for outside groups, appoints committees and conducts elections. President only votes in case of a tie.
- D. Duties of Secretary: maintains correspondence, updated by laws, list of members, applications, and minutes of meetings.
- E. Duties of Treasurer: collects fees, pays bills, keeps financial records, ensures tax reports are filed and makes a financial report to the members of the farmers market.
- F. In case of resignation during the market season a special election will be called. Voting procedures will be determined at that time.

ARTICLE VI
COMMITTEES

- A. The president can appoint members to committees such as promotion, consumer research, site and safety, and audit.
- B. Stand placement and assignment may be proposed before the sale season by the Site and Safety Committee for approval.
- C. Committee members must attend a minimum of 51% of markets per season.

ARTICLE VII
AMENDMENTS

- A. Changes to the bylaws shall be decided on basis of 66% or greater of votes cast.
- B. Vendors who willfully violate the bylaws can be ejected following discussion & vote by the board of directors.

ARTICLE VII
TERMINATION

- A. The farmers market will be intact if 5 members remain active & in good standing.
- B. Failing that, or if facility or municipal arrangements close the market, the treasury is to be maintained for the period of time required to meet all outstanding bills, taxes, and obligations.
- C. The remaining funds shall be split among all current members of the farmers market in good standing, pro-rated according to their length of participation. All taxes and reporting requirements must be satisfied prior to this dispensation of funds.

ARTICLE IX
MISCELLANEOUS

- A. These products can be sold at the farmers market: fresh vegetables, fresh herbs, fruit baskets, bedding plants, baked goods, canned goods, eggs, soaps/ bath salts, fruits, cider, preserves, ornamental produce, potted plants, cut/dried flowers, honey, maple syrup, meat, wool, fleeces, jams/jellies, dried herbs, hay, straw, plant arrangements, vendors produced crafts.

- B. Crafts must contain a level of individual artistry and skill. Prefabricated kits are not permitted.
- C. Products not listed should receive clearance from board members before sale.
- D. All products displayed must be produced and sold by a farmers market member. Any exceptions must be approved by the Farmers' Market Board of Directors on an annual basis. No purchased items can be resold at the market.
- E. Violations of this source restriction can result in a vendor's expulsion from the market and forfeiture of fees paid.
- F. Members can sell products for other members.

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