

**Norwich Farmers Market, Inc.**  
**Market Rules**

**1. Eligibility of vendors:**

- a. The By-Laws of the Corporation assign to the Board of Directors the responsibility for judging all applications for membership in the Norwich Farmers Market.
  - i. Applicants must be residents of Vermont or New Hampshire and their products must be produced in those states. Priority will be given to applicants who are located geographically closest to the Norwich Farmers Market.
  - ii. The market accepts applications from vendors who produce agricultural products (including produce, animal, horticultural, and value added), prepared foods, or crafts.
  - iii. The products shall be locally grown or made, produced by the vendor or his/her co-workers.
- b. The Board may ask an applicant for additional information beyond what is asked for on the annual application form. No one question will serve to determine eligibility; rather, the Directors will consider the overall application in arriving at their final decision.
- c. We acknowledge the inequities that many groups of people face in our society and that diversity makes us stronger. We seek to understand and address those inequities when making decisions.
- d. The board needs to have every vendor's intentions settled, new vendors who fail to turn in their application by the deadline won't be considered for the upcoming year. Reserved and unreserved vendors who miss the deadline will not be guaranteed a spot in the market.
- e. New vendors will be given a probationary period for their first two (2) scheduled market dates. If found to be in violation of Market Rules and standards, vendors will be asked to leave the market. No refunds will be given.
- f. The NFM will allow new owners of an existing market business to sell from the same market space. By doing so, NFM recognizes that a significant portion of the value of the vendor's business comes from sales at the NFM and that business's value increases if the NFM space goes with the sale of a business. Seniority is not transferable. The new vendor's product line must remain substantially similar to the previous owner's. The new owners will have a one-year probationary period to ensure that they adhere to market rules and that their products meet Norwich Farmers' Market standards. Not meeting the above criteria may result in the new owners being removed from the market.
- g. Each vendor must sign a Product Liability Waiver annually. The Market is covered by a limited liability insurance plan. This insurance does not cover product liability for individual vendors.
- h. Serious and/or multiple violations of the market rules may result in the board of directors terminating or suspending a vendor's membership**

**2. Eligibility of products:**

- a. Any new type of products sold by a vendor must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- b. The applicant's products must follow the Market's Product Guidelines. (The Guidelines are an addendum to the Market Rules.)
- c. Products being sold should benefit the Market as a whole.
- d. Agricultural vendors selling meat are required to own, manage, and feed the animals for at least 75% of the animals' life. Agricultural vendors selling eggs are required to own, manage, and feed laying hens for at least one month before their eggs can be sold at the market.

### **3. Conditions of sale:**

- a. Products must be sold by the grower or producer themselves, or by an employee thereof.
- b. Vendors selling by weight must have certifiable scales.
- c. Each vendor is responsible for any licensing or certification required for products sold.
- d. Collection of Vermont sales tax, if any, is the responsibility of the vendor.

### **4. Market seasons and hours of opening**

- a. The summer market season begins on the first Saturday in May and runs through the last Saturday in October. For the purpose of market administration, the market season is divided into quarters as follows: The first and fourth quarters are each six weeks. The second and third quarters are each seven weeks, except in years with more than or less than 26 weeks during the market season, in which case the fourth quarter will be seven weeks or the third quarter six weeks respectively.
- b. The winter market season runs November-April with twice monthly markets.??
- c. The market is open from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. No selling is allowed before 9:00 a.m.

### **5. Allocation of space:**

- a. Space shall be allocated annually by the Board of Directors, in consultation with the Market Manager.
- b. In allocating space, the Directors will maintain the number of vendors as far as possible in the ratio of agricultural products 60%, prepared foods 20%, and crafts 20%.
- c. All vendors must reapply for membership and pay an application fee every year. Along with notification of the time and place of the annual spring meeting, all vendors will be notified of the application deadline. The application deadline is at least one month prior to the annual meeting.
- d. Every reserved vendor shall have the right of first refusal over the space s/he occupied during the previous year, and for the specific time period s/he occupied the space.
- e. All spaces not reserved by the application deadline will be treated as vacant and may be reassigned by the Board of Directors. All vendors will be notified of available vacancies as soon as possible.
- f. Reserved vendors must pay for their space quarterly regardless of attendance. The market must be paid directly (no subletting). Bills for quarterly rent will be issued no later than the first market of each quarter. Payments are due no later than the third market of the quarter; vendors who have not paid on or before the third market Saturday of the quarter will not be allowed to set up on the following (fourth) market Saturday.
- g. After April 1st, a vendor is obligated to pay for the quarters that they requested and for which they have been approved regardless of whether they attend.
- h. Leave of absence— Before April 1st, any reserved vendor may take a one-time leave of absence for one year. The vendor must pay a flat rate fee of \$30 for each reserved quarter plus the annual application fee.
- i. Unreserved vendors who are pre-scheduled for their allotted dates must pay all daily fees before the beginning of the season.
- j. A reserved vendor may share his/her space with one unreserved vendor, provided no other space is available to the unreserved vendor. The reserved vendor's fee is not reduced, and the unreserved vendor shall pay the market the usual weekly rate for unreserved space. Such space sharing arrangements must be approved by the Market Manager beforehand.
- k. If a reserved vendor has not arrived at the market by 9:30 a.m. and has not called to advise the market manager of his/her arrival time, his/her space may be assigned to an unreserved vendor. Should the reserved vendor arrive after 9:30, every effort will be made to find the reserved vendor a space for the day. However, the unreserved vendor will not be asked to relocate.

- l. A reserved vendor who misses a market without notifying the Market Manager three times in one season will be penalized with the loss of his/her space for one quarter. The vendor will have to pay for the space for the quarter but will not be permitted to attend market.
- m. The Market runs rain or shine, all vendors are expected to attend.
- n. Vendors must notify the Market Manager as soon as possible and no later than 9am on Wednesday before the market if they intend not to attend.
- o. Advocacy Groups: The Norwich Farmers Market partners with health advocates, garden enthusiasts, community builders and a variety of other groups. There is a designated education and outreach space available at each market. The Board and Market Manger reserve the right to make decisions on a case-by- case basis about which advocacy groups are the best collaborators for our mission. We have a policy of not offering space to political, religious, or for-profit organizations. Some exceptions may apply. Advocacy groups are responsible for bringing their own tables and equipment with them to the farmers market.

## **6. Regulation of structures:**

- a. All booths, stands, and displays, whether temporary or permanent, are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
- b. Spaces in the outer circle are rented on the basis of front line footage and reserved status. Permanent structures may be built on the outer circle.
- c. Spaces in the inner circle are rented as 10x10 ft plots. No permanent structures are allowed on the inner circle.
- d. In order to make the market more flexible and improve its overall appearance, beginning with the 2023 market season, all market spaces will be based on 10-foot lengths and no new upright structures will be permitted. It will be possible for a vendor to have more than one 10-foot space. All existing structures and nonconforming spaces will be allowed to continue. But when a vendor with a nonconforming space leaves the market or relocates, the open space will be reconfigured to the 10-foot spacing and any existing structure must be removed. When possible, any preexisting nonconforming space on an adjacent side of the new opening will be increased to 10 feet and the new opening reduced to 10 feet. For example, if a 12-foot space opens up, it would be reconfigured to a 10-foot space and the neighboring 8-foot space would be increased to 10 feet. If a newly opened space is under 10 feet, it may be rented as such, but will be increased to 10 feet as soon as possible. If there is a small open area that cannot fit into a 10-foot spacing, the NFM board may determine what to do with the space. The small area may be temporarily rented by an adjacent vendor, or a day vendor, but will not be considered a permanent part of any one vendor's area.
- e. If a reserved vendor reduces their space, a rentable space of at least 6 ft. must remain.
- f. All structures (temporary or permanent) must be open at the sides, (we are not following the sides rule) with only horizontal surfaces in place (i.e., shelves but not walls). Roofs may only be tarpaulin or lattice; all tarps must be rolled up or removed at the close of market each week. Clear tarpaulin sides for weather protection are permitted.
- g. No part of any display can extend beyond the vendor's allotted area into the customer walking areas.
- h. Permanent structures are deemed to be owned by the vendors who occupy them; the vendor-owner in occupancy or another occupying vendor is responsible for maintaining their structures in a safe condition while they are in occupancy. When a vendor-owner leaves the market permanently, s/he must also announce whether s/he intends to (1) remove his/her structure, or (2) transfer ownership of the structure to the successor vendor. Should the owner-vendor fail to take either course of action within a reasonable time, ownership of the structure will revert to the Norwich Farmers Market to do with it as

it may. A structure determined to be unsafe by the board of directors must be repaired by the vendor or the board can remove the structure at the vendors expense.

## 7. General market regulations

- a. Prime parking spaces may not be used by vendors. Unloading vendors shall not block driveway traffic or designated market entrances. Outer circle vendors may park next to their booths for the duration of the market. Inner circle vendors may drive onto the green to unload then must move their vehicles by 8 am.?? Inner circle vendors may not park in outside vendor spaces to unload unless they have made a prior arrangement with an outer circle vendor. People backing up vehicles on the green must use a 'spotter' to watch for pedestrians, both before and after market.
- b. Each booth space had designated dimensions that have been determined by the Board of Directors. Vendors are expected to adhere to these dimensions, be mindful that their displays are safe, and that no parties are obstructing the pathway or neighboring vendors. Vendors may be asked to adjust displays to accommodate safety or visibility concerns, at the discretion of the market manager.
- c. Long lines that repeatedly make it difficult to navigate the market safely and interfere with neighboring vendors' booth access and sales won't be permitted. The market manager will notify a vendor if they consistently have a line that interferes and will work with the vendor to address the issue. It is the responsibility of the vendor to resolve any ongoing line issues in a timely manner. If the vendor fails to actively address the issue, the board might consider them to be noncompliant with market rules and they could be moved, suspended or made to leave the market.
- d. Vendor signage may be displayed on the front, sides, and within vendor booths. Individual vendor's signage should not extend beyond their booth, be placed at the entrance to the market, on the road leading to the market, in the parking lots, or in parking spaces.
- e. Each vendor must keep his/her stall space and surrounding area clean. Vendors who sell prepared food to be eaten at the market must provide outside their booths visible, easily accessible, and sizable trash receptacles which are available to all market customers. Trash collected by vendors must be removed and disposed of offsite. Barrels provided by the Norwich Farmers Market are for customer use only.
- f. No dogs are allowed at the market, except for service dogs.
- g. Alcoholic beverage consumption is not permitted at the market.??
- h. No smoking is permitted on the market grounds due to the Co-op Food store's smoke free zone policy.

*Revised by vote of the market membership on March 21, 2010.*

*Amended by vote of the market membership on March 1, 2015 Amended by vote of the market membership on March 5, 2016.*

*Amended by vote of the market membership on March 11, 2018*

*Amended by vote of the market membership on March 18,2023*

*Amended by vote of the market membership on November November 6, 2024*