



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Farmers' Market Fact Sheet

What is a farmers' market?

- ▶ A farmers' market is a location where producers congregate to offer one or more of the following food items for sale: fresh unprocessed fruits or vegetables; products of a cottage food operation; tree syrup, sorghum, honey, apple syrup, or apple butter produced by an exempt processor; wine as authorized under section 4303.2010 of the Ohio Revised Code; <100 cu ft of commercially prepackaged, non-TCS (time/temperature controlled for safety) foods. To be exempt from licensure, the local market organizer must register the farmers' market with the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

What is considered an "unprocessed" fruit or vegetable?

- ▶ "Unprocessed", with respect to fruits and vegetables, means that they are not processed beyond merely rough trimming and rinsing.

What is a cottage food production operation?

- ▶ A cottage food production operation means a person, who in their own home, produces non-TCS foods such as bakery products, jams, jellies, candy and fruit butter. Please see the "Cottage Food Fact Sheet" for more information.

What is an exempt processor of tree syrup, sorghum, or honey?

- ▶ An exempt processor of tree syrup, sorghum, honey, apple syrup, or apple butter is a person whose end products are at least 75% tree sap, sorghum juice, honey, or apple products collected by that processor. Containers of these products must be labeled according to law.

What are examples of commercially prepackaged, non-TCS foods?

- ▶ Some examples of commercially prepackaged, non-TCS foods are bagged potato chips, wrapped candy bars, canned soda, etc.

Do I need a food license to sell food at a farmers' market?

- ▶ If you are selling one or more of the above mentioned foods at a registered farmers' market, you are exempt from needing to obtain a food license. However, the Ohio Department of Agriculture has the authority to inspect and sample the product of all food vendors at a registered farmers' market to ensure that Ohio laws and regulations are being adhered to.

What if I want to sell foods other than those listed above at a farmers' market?

- ▶ Foods other than those listed above may be able to be sold at a registered farmers' market if they are from an approved source. However, you will need to obtain a license from and be inspected by the local board of health.

For more information, please contact the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department
or the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 614-728-6250.