



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Farm Market Fact Sheet

What is a farm market?

- ▶ A farm market is a producer operated facility where only one or more of the following food items are offered 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; <100 cu ft of commercially prepackaged, non-TCS (time/temperature controlled for safety) foods; cider and other juices manufactured on site; raw eggs, raw poultry, and raw non amenable meat. To be exempt from licensure, the farm market must register 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.

What are the requirements for cider and fresh juice production?

- ▶ Cider and other juices manufactured on the site of a farm market shall be processed in accordance with the good manufacturing practices established in Chapter 901:3-1 of the Administrative Code. All packaged ciders and juices must bear a warning statement on the label if it has not received a 5-log reduction in pertinent pathogenic organisms.

What are the requirements to sell raw eggs, raw poultry, and raw non amenable meat at the farm market?

- ▶ Eggs must come from the market operator’s own hens (max flock size of 500 annually). Poultry must be raised on site (max flock size of 1000 annually). Non amenable meats (e.g. farm-raised buffalo, deer, elk, rabbits, etc.) must be raised on site.

Do I need a food license to sell food at a farm market?

- ▶ If you are selling one or more of the above mentioned foods at a registered farm market, you are exempt from needing to obtain a food license. However, the Ohio Department of Agriculture has the authority to inspect the market and sample all food to ensure that Ohio laws and regulations are being adhered to. If the farm market is not registered with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, or sells any food other than the above listed products, it will be considered a retail food establishment and will be licensed and inspected by the local health department.

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