

## 2024 Flowery Branch Farmers Market Policy

The Flowery Branch Farmers Market Policy follows the Guidelines for Food Products Sold at Events Sponsored by Non-Profit Organizations distributed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The Flowery Branch Farmers Market reserves the right to also implement its own rules and guidelines to protect consumers.

The market application period will be from February 01, 2024-March 29, 2024. All applications will be reviewed, approved, and scheduled by the Market Board. Vendors will be notified of acceptance/denial/waitlist by April 11, 2024. Summer Market Season will be held weekly on Thursdays, May 2 through September 26, except for July 04 (Independence Day). Summer Hours are from 3:30-7pm. Winter market will reopen in October through April and will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday from 3:30-6:30pm.

The Market's location will be located at the Market Pavilion.

( 5210 Railroad Ave, Flowery Branch, Ga 30542)

**Products requiring state licenses** may be sold when a copy of current licenses issued by the proper authority accompanies the application.

These products include:

- Dairy Products - Governed by the Georgia Dairy Law
- Eggs- Governed by the Georgia Egg Law
- Low Acid/Acidified Foods (Canned Vegetables, Pickles, Salsa, etc.) -Must have a state license from the Department of Agriculture and completed Better Process Control School.
- Meat Products - Governed by Georgia Meat Compliance Laws
- Organic Products
- Plants - with a current Live Plant License from the Department of Agriculture.

### **What other products may be sold?**

A. Vendors selling raw agricultural food products including produce, nuts, eggs, honey, milk, and/or uncooked meat and seafood. It is our preference to prioritize farmers with local farm production. We realize that some items are only in season for a portion of the season (for example, blueberries, peaches), and we will do our best to accommodate vendors who are committed to selling at the FBFM weekly during their shortened season.

B. Vendors selling fresh cut flowers, live plants, herbs, seedlings.

C. Vendors selling Ready to Eat foods (for immediate consumption)

D. Vendors selling Prepared/Manufactured Foods - Anyone who sells processed or cooked food including baked goods, bread, cheese, candy, confections, premade meals, any canned/preserved

goods, or other foods that are not whole and raw and only if they are packaged and labeled in accordance with the Georgia Food Code. Prepared Food vendors must produce 100% of the products they have for sale.

E. Unique locally made crafts made by local artisans that visitors can only purchase at the FBFM. Commercially produced products are not suitable for the market.

FBFM reserves the right to reject individual products on applications. Any and all additional items that an accepted Vendor would like to add during the year must be in writing and must be approved before they are sold at the market.

### **What products may NOT be sold?**

- Organizations that promote/sell services (insurance, chiropractors, tutoring, real estate, etc.)
- Organizations that sell weapons of any kind
- Organizations that promote causes including but not limited to political and social causes.
- Retail sale of items not grown or handmade locally are not allowed. No non-profit bake sales or reselling of pre-packaged items (cookies, popcorn, candy, chocolates, candles, donuts, etc. for fundraising.)

### **Additional Rules and Guidelines**

1. Vendor space will be an 8 ft wide under the pavilion. No 10ft Canopy under the Pavilion. It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to provide Tent, Tables, Chairs, Canopy Weights, Display Signs, Trash Bags, etc. ALL VENDORS MUST HAVE All 4 Legs of your canopy weighted down or be subjected to being asked to leave the Market. All Vendors MUST clean up their area/space before leaving. If the vendor space is not cleaned, the vendor will be subject to a \$25 fine per occurrence. The Market's location will be at the Market Pavilion.

An assigned space will be available to participants who pay a one-time permit fee of \$100.00 per space for the season. Double-booth space is available for \$200. (double booth spaces may be limited). The maximum amount of space that may be rented by a participant is a double space. A fee of \$25 per day per space is charged for those unable to commit to full-time participation. Booth space may not be shared or leased to others.

2. There is no guarantee that any vendor will be an exclusive seller of any product. Exclusivity cannot be promised. For certain products, only a limited number of vendors will be allowed.

3. All products shall be sold by the individual or entity that grew/made the product. No re-selling from other markets is allowed. No reselling of other farmers' goods is allowed. You may only sell or represent items grown on land owned by the farmer who is applying for the market.

4. The Flowery Branch Market Summer hours are every Thursday from 3:30-7 pm. Winter hours are 2nd & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month (**Rain or Shine**) Load in on Market days will begin at 2:30pm with load out beginning at 7pm If you sell out prior to 7:00pm and want to leave, contact the Market Manager on site and accommodations will be made if possible. Each vendor is responsible for

cleaning up their space and removing all trash from their area. The Market Manager reserves the right to cancel or close the market if severe inclement weather occurs.

5. All processed products must be labeled with the common food name; the name, address, and phone number of the person who made the item; and a list of ingredients using the common food names. Baked goods should be wrapped for individual sale. All baked goods should be covered and wrapped prior to being at the market to prevent bees and insects from being attracted to the market area.

6. Baked goods should be made in a kitchen that is inspected by the county health department. This may be a commercial facility or a shared kitchen. Please provide the address of - or business license for - the shared kitchen. A copy of the contract for commercial facilities should also be provided. Cottage license vendors are allowed with current license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

7. If cooking products or samples on site with an open flame, you must have a fire extinguisher in your booth.

8. Products may be sold as "organic products" only if the proper state certification is displayed and a copy has been submitted with the application.

9. The Flowery Branch Farmers Market Management reserves the right to inspect the premises where products are grown, processed or crafted at any time during the Market Season.

10. Only registered participants of the Flowery Branch Farmers Market will be permitted to sell at the market.

11. No smoking or the use of tobacco products in the vendor area. No alcohol or drug use. No profanity. All sellers at the market are encouraged to be friendly, courteous, truthful, and honest. The market manager will investigate customer or participant complaints. Sellers who are the subject of complaints may lose privileges at the market. Submission of a vendor application includes consent to a criminal background check by the Flowery Branch Police Department.

12. Each vendor shall furnish retail packaging for his or her products sold. This may be in the form of bags, boxes, or baskets.

13. If selling by weight, it is the responsibility of the seller to have Georgia Department of Agriculture approved scales for weighing the produce. These scales are to be tested periodically.

14. All problems relating to the market should be discussed with the market manager.

15. The market manager shall maintain exclusive discretion as to the permitting and location of each participant to determine the best and most viable mixture of products. Further, the market manager may exclude any individual or business at their sole discretion and may revoke any participant's market permit with or without cause.

16. Farmers should not move from their assigned spaces for any reason. Violators may be asked to leave the market. To keep the market efficient, farmers should effectively communicate their dates of participation. If a farmer reserves space and misses three markets during the season without contacting the market manager, the farmer may lose his or her permit and be asked to reapply to

the market if they wish to continue their participation. No refund of fees will be given for missed markets.

17. Vendors must have a professional-looking sign, which clearly and legibly lists the name of their business, and contact information.

18. Any participant who receives complaints from market consumers for product quality is subject to a new farm inspection. Farmers will be removed from the market if there are multiple verified complaints about the quality of their product. No farmer is allowed to sell produce out of season or produce that is not grown on their own farm. No refund of fees.

19. Eggs may be sold at the market only with a Georgia Department of Agriculture Candler's Certificate. Recycled egg containers are only permitted if the original processing information has been covered up, and the egg carton must be labeled with a farm name, grade, and expiration date.

20. The market is for consumable goods, those made, baked or grown by participants. The market is not for business resell, non-profit resell of pre-packaged goods or bake sales, nor should groups sell or use the market space for fundraising.

21. All Vendors and their representative agree the Flowery Branch Farmers Market and the City of Flowery Branch WILL NOT be held responsible for any damages, personal or bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death that may occur as result of a vendor(s) negligence or products.

22. The Flowery Branch Farmers Market has the authority to expel any vendor(s) from the Market should any of the above Guidelines, Policies or Rules be ignored. NO REFUND if asked to leave the Market.

23. The Market Manager reserves the right to amend these policies as needed and will provide an updated copy of the new policy to all registered vendors.

24. Early breakdown will not be permitted. All vendor booths must remain set up and occupied until 7:00pm or (6:30 for Winter hours)

25. If you find that you cannot come to the market on your agreed dates, please communicate this to the market manager no later than 24 hours before the opening of the market. A change in attendance can be made by contacting the market manager by email or text.

26. Excessive absences may result in removal from the market. Absences MUST be communicated before Wednesday at 4pm.

The Flowery Branch Farmers Market Manager for the 2024 season is Renee Carden. Please contact her if you have any Questions or Concerns.

Flowery Branch Farmers Market

Renee Carden, Manager

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