

## **SOCO FARMERS MARKET RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **2024**

#### **DEFINITION OF A MARKET**

The SoCo Farmers Market is a market where producers, growers, makers, artists, and artisans may sell directly to the public in accordance with State and County regulations.

Location: Somerset, PA

#### **CRITERIA USED IN APPROVING PRODUCER APPLICATIONS**

First consideration will be given to agricultural producers in Somerset County and surrounding counties. Preference will be given to producers judged to have an adequate volume of produce to sell at the market and to producers judged to be capable of participating consistently over the length of the market season.

Preference will also be given to producers offering items for sale that will add to the market's overall variety of agricultural products.

If the applicant has previously sold products at the market, additional criteria considered will include attendance record, quality and appearance of produce, and ability to provide produce throughout the designated hours of each market day.

#### **ITEMS FOR SALE**

Items for sale at the SoCo Farmers Market will be agricultural products that have been approved by the Farmers' Market Manager. Vendors offering value added/baked goods and arts/artisan/ craft items will be approved at the discretion of the manager of the SoCo Farmers' Market. **90%** of products must have been raised and prepared by the producer intending to sell the products.

**Any products which are grown or produced locally, but not grown or produced by the vendor must be labeled as such and approved by the SoCo Farmers Market manager.**

#### **PRODUCT PRICING**

Producers may sell by the piece or by volume. Producers may sell by weight only if they use scales with a current inspection sticker from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Producers are asked to refrain from price undercutting.

#### **DISPLAYING AND SELLING GOODS**

Producers must furnish their own table, chairs, and other display needs including rain protection. Producers are responsible for the cleanliness in and around their assigned space. At the close of the day, all trash and waste is to be removed by the producer.

Producers are expected to conduct business in a courteous manner. Argument, harassment of purchasers, and profane language will not be tolerated.

#### **SPACE ALLOCATION**

Spaces will be assigned to the approved producers by the manager of the SoCo Farmers Market. A map will be sent out each week of where each producer will set up. Spaces may change due to attendance. If a producer is absent, his or her allocated space may be reassigned at the discretion of the manager of the SoCo Farmers Market.

## SPACE FEES

The **Full Time** space fee for the producers at the SoCo Farmers Market is \$10.00 per market day. The \$10.00 fee will be collected at each of the twenty one (21) market days. A special yearly rate of \$180.00 for the entire season will be offered and must be paid in full before the start of the market (June 1st, 2024). The **Part Time** space fee for producers at the SoCo Farmers Market is \$25 per market day. A **Part Time** space is for producers who have a short-season product or are unable to commit to the full season.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Producers are not permitted to bring pets to the SoCo Farmers Market unless it is a service animal. Producers/vendors choosing to bring children under 12 years of age must accompany his/her child at all times.

## FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH MARKET RULES AND REGULATIONS

Failure to comply with the rules and regulations of the SoCo Farmers Market will result in the removal of the offending producer from the market for that day of the offense is identified and may result in the banning of the producer for any period of time deemed appropriate by the manager of the SoCo Farmers Market, including permanent banning.

## MANAGER OF THE SOCO FARMERS MARKET

The manager and committee will review and approve/deny all producer submitted applications.

The manager will assign market spaces.

The manager will collect market space fees.

The manager will enforce the rules and regulations of the market.

**The manager will enforce the verification of locally grown products, including site visits.** The manager may revise the rules and regulations of the SoCo Farmers Market as needed to maintain and improve the market.

Complaints should be in handwritten form, presented to the Farmers Market manager, and will be handled as deemed appropriate.

Acknowledgment of Receipt of Rules: \_\_\_\_\_