

# Bellville Farmers Market

## Rules & Regulations

The mission of the Bellville Farmers Market (BFM) is to benefit farmers and producers, consumers, and neighborhoods in Austin County by operating seasonal monthly market where food producers and harvesters market the fruits of their labor directly to consumers in a public setting.

The BFM has established rules and regulations that guide vendors in understanding what their responsibilities are as vendors. Understanding and complying with these guidelines help the market operate smoothly and efficiently so that all participants may benefit.

### 1 WHO MAY SELL AT THE MARKET

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The Bellville Chamber of Commerce determines who may sell at the market. Many factors are considered when reviewing a vendor application, such as approved vendor status and market sustainability. Vendors may be approved from the following categories.

**A. Producer: the farmer or grower of any raw agricultural product or the person who produces any value-added or ready-to-eat products from their agricultural products.**

**B. Value-Added Producer: a vendor who produces a processed item from agricultural products, such as canned goods. These vendors may or may not grow their own product but obtain and process ingredients to produce food or other items.**

**C. Approved Vendor: a vendor whose product has been approved by the Bellville Chamber of Commerce (BCC).**

Each of the above vendors or their representatives may sell at the market providing the following has been met:

- The Vendor Application has been submitted to and approved by the BCC.
- Vendors are growing their own product, producing their own product, or are agents of a grower or producer; **NO RE-SELLING OF MASS PRODUCED PRODUCTS IS PERMITTED.**
- Each vendor must hold all required permits, licenses, and insurance policies necessary for their business and have *proof onsite in case of inspection*.
- Each vendor releases the Bellville Farmers Market, the Bellville Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Bellville from any and all liability.
- Vendors must also submit the appropriate fees at each Market.

## 2 PRODUCTS FOR SALE

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### A. Agricultural Products Grown or Produced by the Seller, including but not limited to

- vegetables, herbs
- fruits, nuts, berries
- ornamental plants and flowers
- eggs
- milk and cheese
- meat, poultry, seafood
- honey
- firewood
- edible plants, plant starts, and other organic matter

### B. Value-Added Products Produced by the Seller, including but not limited to

- prepared foods
- jams and jellies
- pickles, vinegars, relishes, and salsas
- seasoning mixes and sauces
- baked goods and dry mixes
- herbal teas, coffee, and other beverages
- popcorn, cereal, and granola

### C. Handmade Products, including but not limited to

- herbal lotions
- soaps
- candles

### D. Special Events Approved by the BCC

- fundraisers that benefit the local community
- local artists producing their own art

Products are approved by the BCC based upon the market's stated criteria and specific needs for a balanced product mix.

- Other products, goods, or services may be permitted solely at the discretion of the BCC to whom application to sell could be made.

All vendors must comply with all applicable city, county, state, and federal health regulations at all times. It is each vendor's responsibility to know, secure, and display all licenses and certifications for all Markets.

**Product approval:** Vendors are allowed to sell only the products that are listed on their Vendor Application and that the BFM Board of Directors has approved. This measure helps ensure a sustainable product mix in a small market. Should vendors wish to expand their line of products, please contact market staff about new additions for approval.

## 3 MARKET OPERATION

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- The BFM operates on the first Saturday of the month February through December.
- Official hours of operation are from 9 a.m. until noon. However, members may begin selling at any time in the morning and continue to sell after noon unless directed otherwise by the BCC.
- The BFM operates at the Jim Bishop Pavilion, located at Chelsey Park, just one block from historic downtown Bellville on North Bell Street. This beautiful venue offers a tent free community with easy parking for participants and shoppers. Electricity is also available, if

needed. The pavilion is adjacent to a beautiful park with picnic areas, walking trail, and public restrooms.

- Each vendor determines his or her own pricing.
- All items sold or labeled as organic must meet the requirements of the National Organic Program.
- Prepared foods should be labeled according to State standards.
- Securing a sales tax permit and reporting sales tax is the responsibility of the member.
- The Market Manager has the right to ask that bad quality goods be removed from the market. Sellers can be asked to give refunds to customers who are dissatisfied with products they have purchased.
- All vendors must represent their products in an honest and non-deceptive manner at all times, both in written and oral communications. Vendors and vendor representatives must be courteous and professional at all times. Vendors may not smoke, consume alcoholic beverages, or use illegal drugs during market set up, sales, and take down.
- No loud or aggressive promotion is permitted. Radios or stereos may only be operated with the permission of the Market Manager.
- Each member agrees to maintain his/her market space in a neat, orderly, and sanitary manner and confine his/her produce and equipment to his/her market space. No produce shall be placed on the ground. Each member is responsible for the disposal of his/her waste.

## 4 COMPLIANCE

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All members selling in the market agree to obey all local, state, and federal laws and regulations, and rules and regulations of the Bellville Farmers Market, Bellville Chamber of Commerce, Texas Certified Farmers' Market Association, Texas Department of Agriculture, and Texas Department of Health.

## 5 MEMBERSHIP FORFEITURE

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Willful failure to comply with these rules and regulations may result in temporary or permanent suspension of membership and forfeiture of fees. The Bellville Farmers Market in cooperation with the Bellville Chamber of Commerce operates as an at-will market. We reserve the right to terminate, at any time, market participation with or without cause for any reason.