

Ruston Farmers' Market Goals

1. Provide high quality, fresh local produce on a weekly basis to the North Louisiana area and provide a direct-sales venue for area farmers, growers, and producers of local value-added products.
2. Create a safe gathering place in downtown Ruston in service of the community and local businesses.
3. Educate the community on the benefits of eating fresh, local produce and supporting regional agriculture.

Ruston Farmers' Market Rules and Regulations

A. Eligibility Requirements: All persons who produce food and agricultural products within the State of Louisiana are eligible to sell at the Ruston Farmers' Market. Any questions about eligibility should be directed to the Market Coordinator.

B. Market Time:

- The market will be on Saturdays; times as determined by the Executive Committee may vary with the season.
- Vendors must be at the market 30 minutes before opening to set up, pay fee, and have goods inspected by Market Coordinator.
- Vendors must have premises cleaned and vacated 30 minutes after market close or such time as Market Coordinator deems appropriate.

C. General Rules:

1. **Definition of Vendor:** "Vendor" is defined as the producer of the goods sold and includes the spouse, siblings, children, parents, and employees of the vendor who assist in the cultivation of the product. All products sold must be grown or produced within the State of Louisiana. All products sold must be grown or produced by the vendors unless otherwise approved by the Market Coordinator as stipulated in the resale rule below.
2. **Resale:** Resale must be approved prior to market day by the Market Coordinator and can only be for those items produced within the State of Louisiana and *not* currently being grown and sold by other growers already participating in the market. All questions concerning resale are to be directed to the Market Coordinator.
3. **Tax and Licensing:** There are no specific licensing requirements for vendors selling produce grown by themselves and selling directly to the consumer. Jams, jellies, and preserves produced by the vendors themselves from their own produce and sold directly to the consumer are not taxed up to an annual sum of \$5000 (Ref. Act No. 603). Honey and honey items produced within the State of Louisiana are also included in this exemption. Value-added products may need to be produced in a State of Louisiana approved and licensed kitchen/facility pursuant to Louisiana law. The vendor is responsible for meeting Louisiana law and providing Ruston Farmers' Market with the appropriate licenses, tax IDs, etc. Any questions should be directed to the Market Coordinator.
4. **Permitted items for sale:** Items allowed for sale include raw vegetables and fruits and other produce and value-added products as approved by the Executive Committee. Any questions concerning what is accepted should be directed to the Market Coordinator.

5. **Pricing, labeling, sales requirements:** The vendor is responsible for prominently displaying all prices for all products for sale prior to the opening of the market. Any value-added items must be labeled with the following information pursuant to Louisiana law: Farm/Producer Name, Farm/Producer Address, Ingredients, and Weight or Volume. All produce sales will be based on unit/container/bunch; weight will not be allowed as a measure for sale. Any questions should be directed to the Market Coordinator.
6. **Vendor Fee:** All approved applicants who sell goods at the market are required to pay for the space they use. Vendors may choose to pay a per-use fee of \$10 due upon arrival at the market. Spaces will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Vendors wishing to pay in advance for the market season may pay a seasonal fee of \$80 for 10 weeks prior to the seasonal start of the market. If the market continues beyond 10 weeks, those vendors who paid the advance fee will be given a per-use discount of \$5 for any additional weeks they participate. Questions should be directed to the Market Coordinator or Treasurer.
7. **Hold harmless clause and insurance:** Each vendor is responsible for carrying his/her own product liability insurance if desired. All vendors agree to hold harmless the Ruston Farmers' Market and the City of Ruston for any loss, cost of damages or other expenses incurred.
8. **Vendor/Customer, Vendor/Vendor Conflict:** Any conflict, or potential conflict, which may arise between vendors or between vendors and customers must be brought to the attention of the Market Coordinator for resolution. Should further action need to be taken, the Executive Committee will address the issue for final resolution.
9. **Non-profit Organizations:** The Board invites non-profit organizations with missions related to farming, gardening, conservation, education, youth, and/or nutrition to participate in the Market. Application must be made in advance and approved by the Executive Committee. All rules apply but fees may be waived.
10. **Vendor Responsibility:** Produce/goods must be of sufficient quality. Quality will be judged by the Market Coordinator prior to opening on market day. Vendors must supply any tarps, tents, tables, generators, or other items as needed. It is permissible to sell directly from a truck. Vendors are strongly encouraged to display a sign with their farm/farmer/vendor name. General courteousness and decorum will be expected.
11. **Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP):** Only vendors approved by the State of Louisiana as participants in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program can accept FMNP coupons. Approved vendors must clearly display their FMNP sign. FMNP coupons can only be redeemed for fresh produce and can not be accepted for value-added or other products. The Ruston Farmers' Market is an approved FMNP market.
12. **Ruston Farmers' Market as a Vendor:** The Ruston Farmers' Market reserves the right to sell items for benefit of the Market.
13. **Sole Discretion:** The Executive Committee of the Ruston Farmers' Market reserves the right to make any and all decisions in the best interest of the market. The Executive Committee and/or Market Coordinator have the right to refuse to allow any vendor to sell on market premises for just cause as determined by Committee and/or Coordinator.
14. The application must be signed and submitted at least 2 weeks prior to participation in the market.

Any questions should be directed to the Market Coordinator:

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