

## THE Downtown Market, Start Fresh in Anniston

### Rules and Guidelines, 2021

#### Introduction:

The City of Anniston through its Anniston Farmers Market (AFM) Steering Committee has provided a Farmers Market for the people of Calhoun County and surrounding counties to sell the products that they grow or manufacture on their farm or in their home or on rented land. .

***THE Downtown Market, Start Fresh in Anniston***, the AFM Steering Committee and its designated agents shall implement and enforce all rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of the Certified Farmers Market in a fair and equitable manner. This market is organized pursuant to Code of Alabama. 1975, Sections 2-5-1 et seq. and complies with Chapter 80-7-1 of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Administrative Code.

#### Location:

***THE Downtown Market, Start Fresh in Anniston***, is located at 101 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Anniston, Alabama. Contact information is Market Manager, Michelle Smith, City of Anniston, P. O. Box 2168, Anniston, AL 36202. Email: [marketmanagerafm@yahoo.com](mailto:marketmanagerafm@yahoo.com); phone: 256-624-7172.

#### The Selling Season:

***THE Downtown Market, Start Fresh in Anniston***, will open Saturdays, May 1st-October 30th from 7 a.m to 11 a.m.

#### Permits and Fees:

- A growers' permit must be completed before selling at the market. Permits are available at no charge from the County Extension Office, 1702 Noble Street, Suite 108, Anniston, AL 36201. The purpose of the certificate is to ensure that the products sold originate with the producer, his/her family, employees or partners. This allows the producer and the customer to be exempt from state and local taxes for goods sold.
- Any fees collected by the market are for the express purpose of promoting and operating ***THE Downtown Market, Start Fresh in Anniston***. This includes but is not limited to administrative expenses and advertising.
- Farm, Grower, and Food Vendor fees are \$15 per week. Non-Food Vendor fees are \$20 per week. Occasional/seasonal vendors who typically participate in the market fewer than 3 times per season will be subject to fees of \$30 per week. After their third attendance, said vendor will be considered a "regular" vendor and their fee reduced to \$15 per week.
  - Vendors may pay in advance for the 26-week Market, and thereby be allowed to select and to receive a reserved space. These vendors may also select dates on which they will/will not be available.
  - Vendors who do not wish the full run of the Market will pay their fee, collected during the Market day.
  - "No shows" will pay the designated fee for the space of the no show, plus an additional \$15 or \$20 (equivalent of their normal fee) to come back into THE Market.
  - Assigned space must be guaranteed by Wednesday before the Saturday Market.

#### Space Requirements and Assignments:

- Vendor spaces will be assigned by the market manager in advance of the market day.
- Vendors will be licensed to sell from only one vehicle and must occupy only one space unless additional space has been pre-approved by the market manager. Displays must be confined to assigned space and vendor tent,

approximately 10' x 10' and should include owner-provided table. Vendors must display products on tables with **tablecloths** in retail size containers or packages and display must be attractive. Do not sell out of back of truck, except for melons. No produce or edible products can be placed on ground.

- **PRICING must be displayed.**
- All applicants must submit their vendor application and growers' permit to Market Manager.
- Set-up:
  - Vendors may arrive between 6:00-6:30 a.m.
  - Vendors must stay for the entire length of market: 7 am to 11 a.m.

#### Regulations:

- **Only growers/producers may sell at the market.** A grower/producer is a person(s) that grows or produces agricultural products and may also include the producer's immediate family, partners and employees. A partnership, for the purpose of this document, is defined as two or more individuals engaged together in the joint production of agricultural products. Two inspections to the farm will be made each season.
- NO resellers! Reselling of produce, outside of certified market guidelines, will result in immediate dismissal from the market. Certified Market Guidelines allow for a grower/producer to have on hand no more than 20% of their total product grown by another producer. In the instance that a TDM vendor has product on hand from another grower, a growers permit must be provided for said product, product must be displayed apart from vendor's other product, disclosure must be made to market management and customers, and no Alabama Farmers Market Authority Senior Nutrition Vouchers may be accepted for said product. Juices, commercial items prepared by another source are not eligible products.
- Any complaints filed with the market manager concerning production regulation will be investigated by the AFM Steering Committee and/or the State of Alabama Farmers Market Authority. Should a complaint be found valid, it may result in expulsion from the market for the remainder of the season and no fees will be refunded.
- Arts and crafts (non-food products) may be allowed as long as the number of arts and crafts does not exceed 30% of the total vendors.
- Use of this market is a privilege. Anyone violating any rule or displaying poor behavior (profanity, abusive, fraudulent, deceptive or colluding to set prices) will be excluded from using the market.
- The market is based on first come, first applied. A waiting list will be kept by the market manager who will contact vendors as space becomes available.
- The AFM Steering Committee and/or the market manager may conduct farm visits.
- Fruits and vegetables may be sold by count, bunch or dry measure. If you choose to sell by weight, the scales must be "legal for trade". Inspection certification of the scales must be provided to the market manager.
- Producers may sell their own farm and kitchen products including but not limited to: fruits, vegetables, eggs, cut flowers, plants, cheese, jams, jellies, relishes, honey, home canned and baked goods. It is the responsibility of the producer to abide by Health Department Regulations. The consumer must be informed by a clearly visible label, tag or placard at the selling location **advising that the food is prepared in a kitchen that is NOT inspected by a regulatory agency**, i.e., the State of Alabama Health Department of Calhoun County. Vendors are liable for their own products and insurance is the responsibility of the producer.
- Growers selling eggs must follow guidelines set forth in the Alabama Shell Egg Law regarding proper labeling.

- Meat sales are to be frozen with proper State or USDA stamp on packaging.
- Seafood can be frozen or on ice at 37-41 F degree temperature maintained.
- Dairy products must have proper labeling from an inspected facility on the package.
- The sale of live animals is prohibited. Pets of vendors are not allowed.
- Smoking is NOT allowed per City of Anniston ordinance. Alcohol is not permitted nor may it be sold.
- Product sampling:
  - All vendors, regardless of product, must meet the health requirements that prevent food borne illnesses. Samples requiring cutting/slicing should be done on-site immediately prior to consumption.
  - No home prepared food samples shall be served at the market.
  - Clean knives and cutting boards must be placed in protective plastic containers, food storage bags, etc. so they are protected from contamination. Use single service items whenever possible.
  - All fruits and vegetables must be rinsed thoroughly in clean water.
  - All samples must be protected from contamination at all times. No bare hands.
  - Sampling may be prohibited as directed under COVID-19 response measures.
- Vendors are solely responsible for the cleanliness of their area and are required to leave the space clean at the end of the market.
- In the event of rain, *THE Downtown Market, Start Fresh in Anniston*, will open and remain open as long as conditions are safe.
- It is recommended that vendors have a sign identifying the name and location of the farm or origin of arts/crafts.
- DRESS CODE: Vendors, volunteers and staff are expected to dress appropriately. No cleavage, frontal or posterior, will be allowed. Pants are expected to be belted if necessary and worn at the waistline.

**LIABILITY**

The City of Anniston, the Market Manager, the AFM Steering Committee, and Alabama Power are not responsible for bodily injury, loss of equipment, personal losses, accidents, etc., which occur at the Farmers Market or on the premises. All liability is transferred to organizations using facility if such occurs. No liability is accepted by the City of Anniston, the Market Manager, the AFM Steering Committee and/or Alabama Power Company.

**CONTRACT**

I agree to use the Farmers Market with the directions, limitations, and liability warnings stated in this instrument. I certify that I have been informed by the City of Anniston as to proper use and care of the market for which application has been made. This is to certify that I have read this instrument and I understand it. I will be responsible for everything therein. If abuse occurs, I understand I will be denied use of the Farmers Market in the future.

**MARKET OPERATING GUIDELINES DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

Please see the attached addendum regarding market guidelines during the COVID-19 outbreak.

(Keep the rules and regulations in your file. Return this page to the Market Manager.)

Vehicle Tag Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Modified for the 2021 season on March 04, 2021*

**MARKET OPERATING GUIDELINES DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK ADDENDUM**

- Farmers, vendors and market staff should wear food grade gloves, with frequent changes as they become soiled or contaminated
- Vendors should bring hand sanitizing supplies for frequent use within their own booth space.
- Limit bare hand contact. To the extent possible, limit customer handling of food products.
- Segregate duties behind market tables when possible. Designate one individual to handle money, tokens and coupons, while others handle the products being sold. Again, wear food grade gloves with frequent changes.
- All foods should be pre-packaged to eliminate potential contamination at the market. Examples would be prepackaging breads and baked goods.
- Farmers and vendors who are ill, or showing signs of illness, should stay home. If anyone within the farm or business is confirmed infected with Covid-19, notify the manager and remain home.
- Vendor booths will be 6-10 feet apart when possible.
- Masks or other face coverings may be required for market staff, vendors, and/or shoppers in accordance with local and/or state mandates, or when deemed advisable by the CDC.
- Food sampling may be suspended if advisable by the Alabama Farmers Market Authority.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_