

# 2025 Muscatine Area Farmers Market Inc. Rules

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1. Our market is 100% homegrown and handmade - bring only what you have grown or made - **NO WHOLESALE OR RESALE ALLOWED**. Only food items in accordance with the Iowa code may be sold at the market. If it is reported that you did not grow your produce, flowers, etc. and are reselling, the Muscatine Area Farmers Market manager and/or the board members reserve the right to inspect your property/garden to ensure fairness of the market's homegrown rule. If it is found that you are not growing your own produce, flowers, etc., you will be banned from attending any further Muscatine Area Farmers Market Inc. events and will not be refunded any fees.
  - a. <https://ia.foodprotectiontaskforce.com/resources1/home-based-food-operations/#tab1>
  - b. <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=HF%202431&v=e>
2. Handmade items must meet our market's standards for quality, originality, and appropriateness. **NO WHOLESALE OR RESALE ALLOWED**
3. The following items are not allowed: weapon sales, items depicting illegal activities/drugs/weapons/politics/vulgarity/nudity/offensive language/alcohol.
4. Market hours are 7:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturdays. **No early sales!** Vendors may not arrive and set up before 5:30 a.m. Vendors must be set up by 7:15 a.m. Vendors may not leave the market early unless you have cleared it with a market staff.
5. Vendor fees are \$10 per market day or \$150 if paid by your 2<sup>nd</sup> attendance for the season. Vendor fee is required at the time the market staff arrives at your booth to collect, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. No refunds on vendor fees paid. (max frontage space per vendor is 20ft. at outdoor market) Only 1 vendor per space, Vendors may not share one booth space and sell individually.
6. Our season operates every Saturday, rain or shine, May-October on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Cedar in the city lot.
7. Set up close to your neighbor- don't leave large gaps in between vendors. This way we can fit in all vendors. Vendors must follow spacing and set up rules shown on the map (subject to be reviewed by market staff).
8. Be respectful! No smoking, vaping, alcohol, drugs or swearing on the market premises. No "hawking", no price wars, no loud radio/music, keep your children with you, be a good neighbor. No selling outside your vendor space. Music must be kept at an acceptable level within your vendor space only.

9. You must provide your own tables, tent, appropriate tent weights, chairs, and other supplies you may need. Tents **MUST** be weighed down with appropriate weights.
10. Take any garbage or produce debris with you. Do not use city trash bins.
11. No pets allowed by vendors unless they are service animals. All service animals **MUST** follow Muscatine, IA city code. TITLE 4. - GENERAL PROVISIONS >> ANIMAL REGULATION
  - a. <https://www.muscatineiowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/435/4-1-Animal-Regulations?bidId=>
12. You are responsible for your sales tax and any permits you may need. You must follow all state of Iowa laws regarding the sale of your products, which includes proper labeling of individually baked goods, canning goods, cold food, etc. Vendors can obtain a sales tax permit online at <https://tax.iowa.gov/businesses/business-permit-registration> or by calling 800-367-3388 or 515-281-3114.
13. If you have an issue with another vendor, customer, or the market, take it to a member of the market staff. Any altercations, threats, Facebook shaming, social media attacks, etc. against any vendor or the Muscatine Area Farmers Market Inc. are taken very seriously and can result in possible police assistance and being banned from the market. Depending on the severity of the incident, criminal and/or civil charges may be filed.
14. It is recommended that vendors purchase liability insurance for their business. Vendors and their products are **NOT** covered by the market's insurance policy.
15. Your vehicle needs to be in your vending space, not in an adjacent space. All vendor vehicles that are not in your vendor space, need to be in the designated parking area in the opposite corner lot across from the Muscatine Journal building.
16. In order to participate in Handcrafted Christmas, you **must** be in attendance for a minimum of 6 Muscatine Area Farmers Markets during the season (May – October). No nonprofits allowed to setup at special events.
17. Vendors shall not leave their children under the age of 16 at a vendor stall without adult supervision, for any amount of time. (Adult = responsible person 18 or older)
18. These rules can be subject to change at any time and vendors will be notified. Any violation of these rules can result in immediate termination as a market vendor without a refund.
19. ALL vendors **MUST** accept the Muscatine Area Farmers Market Inc. bucks and vendors will be reimbursed.
20. The Muscatine Area Farmers Market logo cannot be used in the creation of vendor merchandise to be sold.
21. Vendors must obtain appropriate licenses to sell logoed or trademarked items. Examples of this include college university logos, Disney™ registered images, etc.

**Most importantly- remember that we are a team! We are all here to have fun, make money and enjoy our wonderful market friends and community!**

## **Nonprofit Rules**

- A nonprofit must provide their EIN number to show their nonprofit status and who it is registered to.
- Nonprofits may only attend the outdoor market between May - October to promote their organization. And may hand out any informational/promotional items.
- Nonprofits must follow all other market rules while in attendance.
- If your organization would like to apply to participate in our Not-For-Profit Program, please email us at muscatinemarket@gmail.com with your request. Applicants must be a local non-profit charitable 501(c) (3) with the purpose of highlighting and promoting their specific organization.

## **Social Media Policy**

Muscatine Area Farmers Market Inc. recognizes the role social media plays in modern day communication and business. We respect the right of vendors to use social media platforms for self-expression and promotional purposes. That said, vending at Muscatine Area Farmers Market Inc. is a privilege, not a right, and vendors are expected to conduct themselves accordingly and abide by basic guidelines and principles.

Vendors will benefit if we are more effective at promoting the farmers' market and expanding our marketing reach. Vendors are encouraged to engage with, and share content posted by Muscatine Area Farmers Market Inc.

Vendors are encouraged to utilize the original Muscatine Area Farmers Market Inc. logo on their social media posts. Please contact the market staff for any assistance with suggested language and guidelines for social media posts.

Please remember that airing grievances on social media rarely leads to a positive outcome. Vendors with problems or concerns should first contact the market staff to help resolve any issues.

Vendors should refrain from any social media posts that may be deemed as harassing, threatening, discriminating, or disparaging to market staff, vendors, or customers.

Vendors should note that there are laws governing the sharing of images without consent. Please be considerate and act accordingly when sharing photos of market customers and/or vendors.

Vendors are encouraged to contact market staff immediately if contacted by the media or press about any issue specifically related to Muscatine Area Farmers Market Inc.

It is a privilege to vend at Muscatine Area Farmers Market Inc. and as such, the board of directors reserves the right to take appropriate action should any vendor use social media to defame or threaten staff, customers, or other vendors; or to engage in commentary or action that is contrary to the best interest of farmer's market and its brand; or is detrimental to the overall experience of farmers market.