



Downtown Perry Farmers Market Policies

Regular Operating Hours

Downtown Perry Farmers Markets take place every Saturday from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Markets take place in the parking lot at 801 Main Street, Perry, GA. The exception to market operating dates is when a Market falls on a major holiday such as Christmas or New Year's.

What Can/Cannot Be Sold at the Market

The following items including, but not limited to, can be sold at the Perry Farmers Market:

- Raw Agricultural Products: fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, mushrooms, honey, plants
- Process foods/value-added products: baked goods, jams, jellies, sauces, honey, cut flowers and herbs, homemade canned goods, dog treats. These products must adhere to federal guidelines on their labels. Cottage Food License required where necessary.
- Prepared Foods: typically produced for immediate consumption; breads, rolls, cakes, pastries, cookies, dried herbs, seasonings, cereals, granola, coffees, teas. Cottage Food License required.
- Arts & Craft/non-agricultural products: approved arts & crafts, handmade soaps, wood workings, pottery, quilted items, jewelry, candles, etc; vendors selling these items must have created them. Items must be handcrafted, original, and exhibit a high level of quality and design.
- Meat and Other Animal Products: eggs, dairy products, meats, poultry, fish, seafood.

The following items including, but not limited to, cannot be sold at the Perry Farmers Market: animal manure/compost, live animals, products containing illegal substances.

Market Vendor Application Process

Individuals interested in participating in the Downtown Perry Farmers Market are to submit an application online at <https://perry-ga.gov/perry-farmer-market-vendor-application>. The Downtown Manager (or other designated individual) will review applications for completeness and appropriateness, and approve applications based on the needs of the market. Applications that do not meet the needs of the market at the time of submission will be placed on a waitlist. Vendors will be contacted on an as needed basis, depending on what the market needs are. The Downtown Perry Farmers Market reserves the right to refuse any applicant or ask any vendor to leave the market at any time.

Vendor Fee and Payment

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After a new vendor is approved, via the proper channels, a vendor fee must be submitted before a new vendor can attend their first market. Vendor fee options are as follows: ~~\$45/month, \$75/quarter, or \$250/year~~ **\$50/month, \$100/quarter, or \$300/year** Vendor fees can be submitted in person at Perry City Hall, Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm. Vendor fees can be submitted over the phone by contacting the Customer Service Office at (478) 988-2754. Vendor fees can be collected at a market if arrangements are made in advance with the Downtown Manager at (478) 988-2730 (or another designated individual).

Vendor Set Up

Vendors can begin arriving to the market area as early as 7:30am the morning of a Farmers Market. Vendors can then begin unloading their equipment, tents, supplies, etc. Vehicles can remain in the parking area. Tents/tables must be put in front of the vendor's vehicle. Trailers are permitted but must receive permission from the Downtown Manager (or another designated individual). All vehicles must be removed from the market area by 8:45am. If vendors use tent canopies, canopies must be weighted down with bricks, sandbags, water jugs, etc. Vendors are responsible for the set up and breakdown of their own vendor spots.

Vendor Breakdown

Vendors are expected to stay for the duration of the Farmers Market hours, 9:00am – 1:00pm. Vendors are permitted to leave before the conclusion of the market **only** in cases where the vendor's health or safety is at risk (extreme heat, inclement weather, etc.). **“Selling out” or “low market attendance” do not constitute reasons to leave before 1:00pm.** Vehicles cannot move in or out of the market area until 1:00pm for the safety of other vendors and customers.

Licenses and Permits

Vendors must have up to date licensing and permits where applicable. Vendors are responsible for meeting the local, state, and federal requirements to sell their products. For more information, vendors can contact the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

A *Cottage Food License* through the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) is required for the following items, but not limited to, baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, chocolates, etc.), dried herbs, teas, coffee beans/grounds, popcorn, candies and confection, jams, jellies, preserves, dried fruits, nuts. *Egg Candling license* is required for vendors wanting to sell eggs. *Mobile vehicle license* is required for vendors selling meat products (beef, chicken, pork, etc.) *State and local licensing* is required for vendors with bottled alcohol. Additional permits can be requested on an as needed basis, depending on the type of products being sold (Feed License, Food Sales License, Live Plant License, etc.)

In accordance with House Bill 398, effective July 1, 2025, licenses are not required or issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. It is required to be registered with GDA to have an identifier number for labeling products and be in line with labeling requirements. While licensing is not required as of July 1, 2025, cottage food operators are required to adhere to the cottage food regulations, up to and including:

- Produce only non-potentially hazardous, non-time and temperature controlled for safety (TCS) cottage food approved foods.
- Water Source - if you are on a private system you will need to have your well water/private water system tested for Total Coliform, and Fecal Coliform annually,

DPH does the testing and we've included a link to the guidance document for your convenience [Non-Public Water Testing Guidance](#).

- Completing an [ANSI Accredited Food Handler Courses](#)
- Properly labeling your products in accordance with the cottage food directives and FDA labeling standards [Food Labeling Requirements](#)

For more information regarding Cottage Food, visit www.agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food

You must be able to provide an example of your current label that is on your products to the Downtown Manager before you can attend the market.

Vendor Spots

Each vendor has approximately a 10ft x 10ft space to set up. While the regular, consistent vendors have spaces that they regularly set up in, there are not official assigned vendor spots at the market. While attempts will be made to ensure vendors are in specific spaces on a consistent basis, no vendor is ever guaranteed a particular space at the market. Vendors wanting to use/occupy more a 10ft X 10ft space (for trailer, large equipment, etc,) must receive permission from the Downtown Manager (or another designated individual). Vendors are responsible for the upkeep and cleanliness around their vendor booth spot.

Vendor Code of Conduct

The Downtown Perry Farmers Market strives to create a welcoming, professional, and respectful environment for all vendors, staff, and patrons. The following Code of Conduct applies to all participating vendors to uphold the market's values of fairness, inclusivity, and community collaboration. Failure to follow the Vendor Code of Conduct could result in removal (temporary or permanent) from the market.

- All vendors must treat fellow vendors, customers, City of Perry staff, and volunteers with courtesy, respect, and professionalism always.
- Harassment, yelling, confrontational behavior, or aggressive questioning is strictly prohibited.
- Only the Downtown Manager or designated city staff are authorized to: verify vendor licensing and compliance and approve vendor participation or address policy violations.
- Soliciting or actively calling out to customers in front of or within the space of another vendor's booth is strictly prohibited. All vendors must respect the booth space of other vendors.
- Vendors must not attempt to redirect customers from neighboring vendors by stepping into walkways or other vendors' spaces.
- Vendors with concerns regarding other participating vendors or conduct (including licensing or product types) must bring their concerns directly to the Downtown Manager or designated market representative—not to other vendors. If a vendor believes a fellow vendor is violating market policies, you can submit your concerns via email or in person to the Downtown Manager. The Downtown Manager (or another designated staff) will assess the issue and respond accordingly.

Non-Discrimination Clause

The Downtown Perry Farmers Market will not discriminate against any individual because of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, disability, or sexual orientation.

Miscellaneous

- Vendors are responsible for the set up and breakdown of their own vendor spots and supplies. Vendors must dispose of their own trash or take their trash with them upon pack up.
- National, state, and local laws may override any Downtown Perry Farmers Market Policies.
- The Downtown Perry Farmers Market is not responsible for collecting sales tax. Individual vendors are responsible for collecting and paying their own sales tax.