

Acres Homes Farmers Market Market Rules

Mission

The mission of the Acres Homes Farmers Market is to promote healthier living. The Acres Homes Farmers Market is governed by Communities for Better Health which is a Houston nonprofit organization with the mission to create healthy sustainable communities.

Selling at the Market

Who may sell and participate at the markets is determined by the CFBH as explained below. Vendors of products grown or produced within 180 miles of Houston providing:

- A vendor application has been submitted to and approved by the CFBH
- Vendor is growing or producing their own local product following the majority local standard
 - no re-selling is permitted
- Vendor holds all required permits, and licenses necessary for their business operation.
 - Vendor must sign all agreements and consents outlined in the
- The product is labeled with the name of the actual producer and signage that identifies that name of the producer
- The grower produces their own local product; no re-selling is permitted.
- **Non-Profit Groups:** Non-profit groups may participate at the market as space permits. Non profits which are accepted to participate in the market are identified by criteria determined by the CFBH. Such groups may set up information-only tables free of charge. Give-away items and tangible incentives that are free to the public are allowed
 - Educational cooking demonstrations are permitted

What can be sold

***Items not listed are subject to the approval of the CFBH Leadership ***

Products grown or produced by the seller, including but not limited to:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetables • Fruits, nuts, berries • Ornamental plants and flowers • Eggs • Milk and cheese • Meat and poultry • Seafood, either farm-raised or wild-caught • Honey • Edible plants and plant starts • Value-Added products produced by the | <p>seller, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepared foods ○ Jams and jellies ○ Pickles, vinegars, salsas ○ Seasoning mixes, sauces ○ Dried flower arrangements ○ Baked goods ○ Herbal lotions, soaps, teas, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artesian hand made crafts made by the seller |
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All vendors must comply with all applicable city, county, state, and federal health regulations at all times. The CFBH will keep in each vendor's file copies of all applicable permits and licenses. It is each vendor's responsibility to provide current copies to the CFBH, as well as to keep copies with them at the market to be available for inspection by authorized officials. ***All prepared food vendors are required to submit a copy food handlers certification at the time of application.***

Market Operations

The Acres Homes Farmers Market will operate year-round, rain or shine. The market will be held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 10am-1pm at the Bethune Empowerment Center (2500 S. Victory Drive, Houston, TX 77088)

- All vendors must have an approved vendor application on file to participate in any Acres Homes Farmers Market events.
- Vendor booths are 10 feet wide and 10 feet deep. The CFBH may permit a vendor to occupy more than one stall (if applicable) if the amount of product brought justifies it and if the markets can accommodate it. Requests for additional stall space must be made in advance.
- The CFBH will assign stalls based on the best interests of the markets as a whole, as well as criteria identified by CFBH. While vendors may have a customary location, this location is subject to change at the discretion of the CFBH. CFBH will consider the various needs of particular vendors and accommodate them to the extent possible, particularly for space to park a truck containing backup merchandise and for the need for access to electricity.
- While operating at the market, vendors must follow all local, county, state, and federal regulations for handling, selling and distributing food. The quality of products sold must be of merchantable quality.
- No solicitation of any kind is permitted. This includes solicitation related to political campaigns.
- Vendors will determine their own pricing
- Vendors must represent their products in an honest and non-deceptive manner at all times, both in written form on signs and in oral form during conversations. See the Participation Agreement.
- All items sold or labeled as organic must meet the requirements of the National Organic Program. Only certified organic growers may display signs using the word "organic." If a vendor offers both organic and non-organic items in the same stall, individual signs should make it clear which items are organic and which are not.
- Prepared, packaged foods should be labeled with the name of the product, producer's name and address, a list of all the ingredients, with the highest proportion of ingredients listed first in descending order and quantity or weight of contents as required by the State of Texas.
- Each vendor must display a large sign or banner identifying their farm or business name.
- Vendors must keep their stall and their equipment in a clean, safe, and hazard-free condition. At the end of the market, each vendor must leave their selling area clean, with all trash removed.
- Vendors must conduct themselves in a courteous and professional manner. Vendors must treat all customers, members of Acres Homes Health Action Team, volunteer, and fellow vendors with respect at all times.
- No loud or aggressive promotion is permitted
- Radios or stereos may only be operated with the permission of CFBH
- No weapons of any kind are permitted on the grounds of the Farmers Market.
- No tobacco use, including e-cigarettes and vaping devices, is permitted at the market
- No consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is allowed at the market.
- Vendors must be set up and vehicles removed from the market area at least thirty minutes prior to the start of the market. Vendors must remain set up until the close of the market.
- Vendors may not let their vehicles idle during market hours unless required to power mechanical refrigeration
- Vendors must supply their own tents, tent weights, and tables. For the safety of all present at the market, tent weights must meet manufacturer requirements, but not less than 25 pounds

PER tent leg.

- Bungee cords may be used only to hold tent weights in place, not to be used to suspend the tent weight.
- Ropes or tie down straps that connect the weight to the tent must be taut at all times.
- Tent weights must be attached IMMEDIATELY after pitching the tent, and when weights are removed, the tent must be IMMEDIATELY taken down
- Vendors must give the market organizers at least 24 hour notice if they are unable to be present at the market unless prior timely notice is given.
 - **No Call/No Show Rules**
 - **First offense- \$15.00 fine**
 - **Second offense- \$30.00 fine**
 - **Third offense- Vendor application will need to be resubmitted and subject to reapproval by the Acres Homes Health Action Team**
 - **Vendors will not be able to participate in following markets until the fine is paid**
- No storage space for vendors is available at the market site
- Vendors should be prepared for all kinds of weather

Non-compliance

Non-compliance with market rules will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of CFBH

- The first warning will be verbal.
- The second warning will be written.
- The final warning will be suspension from the markets for a period of time and possible termination of the vendor's participation in the market.

Any vendor aggrieved by the CFBH's decision may appeal for review by emailing acreshomeshat@gmail.com

Complaints and suggestions

Suggestions for market improvement are always welcome. Complaints or grievances should be brought to the attention of the market organizers, who will investigate the issue and if a problem is found, address it

- Vendor complaints must be made to the market organizers in writing
- Upon request, the market organizers will provide an update on the status of the effort to resolve the complaint, to the extent that vendor confidentiality permits.
- Market organizers will respond to the complaint in writing within 14 days of receipt of the written complaint, and will promptly provide all parties involved a copy of the complaint. In most situations, vendor problems will not be addressed during market hours

Governance

- CFBH governs the market and has final authority regarding all matters relating to the market.
- CFBH approves vendor applications, considers and proposes changes to the market rules, and acts in an advisory role to the Vendor Specialist.
- CFBH Team will hold an annual meeting for all participating vendors to discuss market performance and enforcement of market rules

Amendments

The market rules may only be amended with the approval of the CFBH. CFBH may update market

procedures and criteria at any committee meeting.

Contact information:
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832-390-4984