

New Guidelines to Protect Against the Spread of COVID-19 at the Nash County Farmers Market

Effective March 20, 2020

- An email will be sent to customers on the Thursday before each Saturday market informing and reminding them of the new guidelines and asking vendors and patrons who are sick to self quarantine and avoid visiting the market.
- Customers will be instructed to practice social distancing measures by assuring they remain a distance of six feet from other customers and vendors. Customers will be informed of this policy as they entered the market via signage, staff and volunteers.
- The space between vendors will be increased to reduce crowding. Each vendor will have a 6ft perimeter around their booth space. In addition, vendor tables will be set up so that customers may approach the booth space from three sides while maintaining social distancing from the vendor.
- All bay doors will remain open during market hours, regardless of the weather, to create airflow.
- Vendors will, as much as possible, wrap or bag their products so that the product is protected. This will reduce handling and speed up the transactions.
- Products will be rounded to the nearest dollar to avoid the need to accept coins. According to studies, viruses are more likely to survive on coins than paper bills. This will also speed up the transaction.
- Customers will be instructed to not handle any items on any of the vendor tables but to point at what they want and vendors will then bag their purchases. Signage at the market informing customers of this policy will be posted.
- To reduce contamination vendors will not be permitted to offer samples.
- Disposable plastic or paper table covers can be used and be thrown away at the end of the market day. Tables must be sanitized prior to the opening of the market and at the close of the market day. Cloth towels and table coverings will not be permitted.
- Vendors are highly encouraged to wear disposable gloves.
- Vendors should designate one person to handle money and another to handle product.
- A portable hand washing station will be set up in front of both buildings and customers will be strongly encouraged to wash their hands before and after entering the market.
- Concessions will be closed and customers are not permitted to consume ready to eat foods or drink on the premises.
- If provided by vendors, an updated list of products from participating vendors, with pricing, will be made available to customers via email each Thursday. This will allow for a large amount of customers to pre-orders, through the vendor's websites.
- Curbside pickup will occur in a specified location at the market. Delivery of products to the customer will be the responsibility of the vendor. Please bring an adequate number of staff to handle your pre-orders.
- A produce box program will be implemented beginning April 4th with the market being a pickup location. Information and links to the produce box ordering will be provided via social media and weekly emails. At this time, if you would like to provide product in the produce box, please contact the market manager.
- Due to social distancing requirements, once vendors have completely sold out of their products, you are encouraged to clean your area and depart the market.
- Temporarily until circumstances change, only local food, food plants and locally produced personal care product vendors will be permitted to sell at the market. Vendors

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permitted to sell at the market are subject to change, in order to maintain social distancing and space between the vendors.

- All guidelines are subject to change. Decisions and changes to these guidelines will be made at the discretion of the market manager, NC Cooperative Extension staff and/or Nash County Government.

FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

- [CDC](#)
- [NC DHHS NASH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT](#)
- [NASH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT](#)

FROM THE NC STATE EXTENSION:

- [NC STATE EXTENSION COVID-19 RESOURCES](#)
- [NC STATE EXTENSION COVID-19 FAQ FOR FARMERS MARKETS](#)
- [ARTICLE: "LOCAL FARMERS' MARKETS DO THEIR PART TO FLATTEN THE CURVE ON CORONAVIRUS" BY DEBBIE ROOS](#)
- [CREATING A FREE ONLINE STORE FOR YOUR FARM BY DEBBIE ROOS, EXTENSION AG AGENT](#)

FROM ORGANIZATIONS WE LOVE:

- [FARMERS' MARKET COALITION](#)
- [CAROLINA FARM STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION](#)
- [RURAL ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL](#)

INFO FOR FARMERS, PRODUCERS, AND OTHER MARKETS:

- [ARTICLE: "SUPPORTING ALTERNATIVE SALES OPTIONS FOR DIRECT TO MARKET FARMERS" BY RAFI](#)