

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 and vendors on Thursday or Friday prior to Saturday's Market informing and reminding them of the new updated guidelines and asking vendors and patrons who are sick to avoid visiting the market.
- Customers will be instructed to practice social distancing measures by asking them to remain a distance of six feet from other customers and vendors. Customers will be informed of this policy as they enter the market via signage.
- The space between vendors has been increased to reduce crowding. In addition, the aisle has been widened to accommodate customer social distancing.
- All bay doors will remain open during market hours, regardless of the weather, to allow 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 avoid handling any items on any of the vendor tables. Patrons should point to 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 only be able to give out samples that are individually prepackaged and covered.
- Disposable plastic or paper table covers can be used and will be thrown away at the end of the market day. Vinyl table coverings that can be sanitized are permitted, but they must be cleaned and sanitized at the start and the conclusion of each market day. Tables must be sanitized prior to the opening and at the close of each market day. Cloth towels and table coverings will not be permitted.
- Vendors are highly encouraged to wear disposable gloves and wash their hands frequently.
- As required by the North Carolina state mandate; all vendors, customers and staff are required to wear a face covering over their mouth and nose.
- When possible, vendors should designate one person to handle money and another to handle product. If only one vendor must handle the money and the product, the vendor must sanitize their hands or change their gloves.
- A hand sanitizing station will be set up in front of both buildings and customers will be strongly encouraged to sanitize their hands before entering and when leaving the market.
- Concessions will be open and customers are permitted to consume ready to eat foods or drink on the premises as long as they maintain an adequate social distance from other patrons and vendors.
- 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 adequate staff to handle your pre-orders.
- A produce box program is being planned with the market being the pickup location. Information, details and links to this new program will be provided once implemented. At

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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 and sanitize your area and depart the market.
- Products permitted to be sold at the market include: produce, baked goods, local foods, food plants, flowering plants, locally produced personal care products and artisan/craft products. In order to maintain social distancing and space between the vendors, the number of vendors permitted to sell at the market is subject to change,
- 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.
- We highly recommend completing the [Count on Me NC](#) certification.

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](#)
- [COUNT ON ME NC](#)

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](#)

UPDATED 09-08-20