

Rabun County Community Market

MARKET POLICIES AND OPERATING RULES

MISSION: To establish a community center where local farmers, artists and crafters can sell directly to the consumer; to provide opportunities for our residents and visitors by promoting local productiveness as well as community building through educational and family-friendly activities.

TIME AND PLACE: The Rabun County Community Market will operate every Saturday (and we will be adding Tuesdays) from June through October. Specific dates and times will be announced each year as determined by the Rabun County Community Market Committee. The Rabun County Community Market is located at 201 West Savannah Street (HWY 76West), Clayton, Georgia.

VENDORS: Local* farmers or gardeners, processors of agricultural commodities, artists, or handcrafters who have produced the items for sale. All vendors must reside and produce items they sell in Rabun County or a *"neighboring" county to Rabun (Habersham County, Towns County, White County; Macon, Jackson and Clay Counties in North Carolina; Oconee County in South Carolina). Applicants residing in other counties may be considered on a case by case basis. Vendors must be the original producers, family members of producers, or employees of producers of items.

Food Processors are responsible for meeting any and all county, state and federal requirements. For more information please call the Georgia Department of Agriculture at 1-800-282-5852 and the Rabun County Health Department at (706)212-0289.

Recognized civic groups are welcome to participate and may resell non-agricultural items for fund raising purposes.

Vendor Fees are \$15 per Saturday (Tuesdays will be \$10.00 per day).

Fees include electricity, tables and chairs, or back your truck in your spot!

WHAT CAN BE SOLD AT THE MARKET?

A. Raw Agricultural Products: Includes fruits, vegetables, grains, herbs, flowers, bedding plants and potted plants. Nurseries must grow plants from seed, plugs, cuttings, bulbs, and bare-root. Woody plants and bedding plants may be re-potted and sold as long as they have been owned for forty-five (45) days. No resale of pre-finished plants is allowed. Plants must be in the possession of the vendor a minimum of forty-five (45) days. All vendors selling plants must obtain a live plant license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

B. Value-added Agricultural Products: This category includes products made of raw agricultural commodities that have been processed. Examples are jams, jellies, sauces, oils, vinegars, baked goods, molasses, cider and picked-out nuts. Sellers must abide by all applicable federal, state, and local health regulations. In addition vendors must adhere to federal guidelines on all labels. Products in this category will require the seller to obtain a Cottage Foods License from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

C. Arts and Crafts and Non-agricultural Products: Includes approved arts and crafts, handmade soap, handcrafted furniture, pottery, quilted products, and jewelry. Members selling these items must have created them. These items must be handcrafted, original, and exhibit a high level of quality and design. Products not allowed include those made from a kit assembly and direct resale of commercially available products.

D. Meat and Other Animal Products: Includes meats, trout, catfish, poultry, milk, cheese, eggs, honey, wool, leather and other products derived from animals. Vendors must abide by all applicable federal, state and local regulations and inspection regimes. In addition, they must adhere to federal or state guidelines on all labels. For example, those persons selling eggs must obtain an egg candling license and be certified by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

The following products can only be sold at the market if all applicable laws are met: -Meat Products (including trout and catfish), Dairy Products and Organic Products (Farms must be certified through the United States Department of Agriculture to be labeled as an organic product). National, State and Local Laws and regulations may over-ride any policies that are currently in place at the Rabun County Community Market. To find out more information please visit the Georgia Department of Agriculture website at www.agr.georgia.gov.

All produce must be of the highest quality which is subject to the judgment of the Market Manager. Only USDA certified organic growers may display signs using the word "organic". ***No buying and reselling of produce or other products are allowed with the exception of trout, catfish, peaches, apples, peanuts, pecans, muscadines, watermelons, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, cantaloupes, and strawberries. These products may only be sold by RSVP Vendors.*** If grown locally, these products may only be sold until such time as the locally grown product becomes available. The Market Manager will make the determination as to the availability of specific products on a case-by-case basis. Any violation of this policy will result in the immediate dismissal from the Rabun County Community Market. Commercial produce stand vendors will not be allowed to sell any item which can be locally produced.

Produce stand vendors can sell the items listed above under those circumstances only.

Nursery plants sold at the Rabun County Farmers Market must be in possession of and cared for by the vendor for forty-five (45) days prior to being sold at the Farmers Market. ***Anyone selling live plants must have a live plant license available at www.agr.georgia.gov.***

Baked goods must be fresh (made within 24 hours of market day). Baked goods must be prepared from scratch (exceptions-nonprofit organizations) meaning there shall be nothing sold using commercially prepared mixes, crusts/shells or fillings. Baked goods must be individually wrapped or, if warm, must be covered and protected from the environment at all times. All baked goods must comply with Georgia Department of Agriculture regulations.

Vendors may only sell food items if they are a non-profit or civic group or if you meet health department requirements.

Crafts are reviewed on a case by case basis. All crafts must be a product of a home or cottage type industry and must be made by the vendor or a relative of the vendor's family. All crafts must be of excellent workmanship in quality and design. All crafts must be "handmade" or "hand crafted". All applications must include a photograph of the craft.

FARM INSPECTION: No reselling of any products is allowed other than the items previously mentioned. The sale of any product not grown or produced by vendor will result in the expulsion of said vendor from the Rabun County Community Market. Rabun County Community Market management reserves the right to inspect any member's farm or business to determine whether the member is producing all the said vendor is selling at the market.

The Market Manager will be visiting produce farms in May and June for inspections.

PRICING: The pricing of goods is at the discretion of the individual vendor. Vegetables and other products will be sold by the piece or by volume, not by the pound. The use of scales is prohibited at the Rabun County Community Market. Prices should be fair market value.

MARKET DAY RULES: Vendors must be in place 30 minutes prior to the opening of the market or their space may be reassigned. Please call the Market Manager at **706-982-9432** before 6:30 AM on market day if you will be late. The Market Manager is responsible for all space assignments. Spaces may be reserved for the entire season; otherwise they can be obtained on a first come first served basis. During the registration process applications are accepted at the discretion of market management. If spaces are needed for special reasons, the Market Manager has the power to reserve a specific area.

1. All vendors are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner in dealing with customers and other vendors.
2. No "hawking" of products, distraction of customers from another vendor's booth, or disparaging remarks about another vendor's goods will be tolerated.
3. Vendors shall not participate in arguments or make threatening remarks toward other vendors or customers.
4. Vendors shall not interfere with communication between other vendors and their customers; for example-singing or loud music.

5. Vendors will not be allowed to solicit for political or religious purposes.

6. Each vendor is responsible for cleaning up the area around his or her space.

7. No signs, shelving, tables, or furniture of any kind may be left at the market during the week.

8. Nails or screws shall not be mounted to any structure in the market.

9. Anything left at the market will be removed by the Market Manager. Any unauthorized vehicles left at the market in a vendor's space will be towed.

10. No smoking under and/or near the buildings is tolerated.

11. No pets (customer or vendor) are allowed at the Rabun County Community Market.

Electrical power demands are limited to 20 watts on any circuit (comprised of 2 outlets). If a particular machine is using more energy than the demand the Market Manager will remove that machine from the circuit.

Safety of customers and vendors at the Rabun County Community Market is a priority. Vendors arriving and departing the market must drive slowly and carefully especially during hours of operation at the market.

MARKET MANAGER: The Market Manager is empowered to answer questions, solve problems and amend market policies. The Market Manager will inform the Rabun County Community Market committee of issues demanding the committee's attention. The Rabun County Community Market Committee is comprised of vendors, the Market Manager, Rabun County Extension Agent, and personnel from the County Commissioner's Office.

ENFORCEMENT OF MARKET POLICY: Vendor failure to adhere to any Rabun County Community Market Policy set forth herein results:

First Offense-Verbal warning issued

Second Offense- Will result in expulsion from the Rabun County Community Market.

The Rabun County Community Market Committee reserves the right to amend these policies as is necessary.

TAXES: Individual Vendors are responsible for paying their sales taxes. The Rabun County Community Market is not responsible for collection of sales tax.

NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE: The Rabun County Community Market will not discriminate against anyone because of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age disability or sexual orientation.