



The Salisbury Farmers Market Rules, Information, & Application

info@salisburyfarmersmarket.net | 980-643-1598

Salisbury Farmers Market Mission

The Salisbury Farmers' Market (SFM) aims to create and sustain a vibrant and innovative market that supports local farmers, artisans, and the community. Our Market enhances the economic strength and viability of farmers, growers, and producers in Rowan County and throughout the Piedmont of North Carolina. We strive to honor the region's rich agricultural heritage.

We seek to collaborate with our members to provide the best possible venue and support for nurturing and maintaining healthy, sustainable farms and artisan-based businesses.

We strive to provide access to the highest-quality fresh, local food in an environment that fosters meaningful relationships between farmers, artisans, and customers. By engaging with our community, we aim to expand the reach of the Market and promote a strong local food ethic. We strive to create a vibrant community gathering place where people from throughout the area feel welcome. When we come together as a dynamic community, we strengthen ourselves and each other.

Our Goals

- Create and increase opportunities for farmers to sell their products directly to consumers.
- Create and increase opportunities for consumers to buy local products directly from farmers.
- Bring together families, neighbors, visitors, and local food producers to foster community and social connection.
- Establish a vibrant market that makes our location a destination for tourists and visitors.
- Provide educational opportunities that highlight the nutritional, environmental, and economic value of buying local, sustainably produced farm products.

Time and Place

- Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Opening date Saturday, April 18, 2026.
- The Salisbury Farmers Market is located on the Railwalk at the Farmers Market Pavilion, 228 E. Kerr St, Salisbury, NC 28144

Market Seasons and Hour

Prime Season:

- Saturdays starting April 18, 2026 – September 26, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Fall Season:

- Saturdays, October 3, 2026 – December 19, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- The SFM Board of Directors and Market Manager reserve the right to change or cancel the market due to hazardous weather or other unforeseen circumstances, following organizational procedures.
- Vendor booth locations are on both sides of the Railwalk Pavilion, along E. Kerr Street, and in the parking lot at the corner of E. Kerr Street and N. Lee Street.

Application Process


To be considered for the 2026 Prime Season Market, a completed application and supporting documents must be received on or before March 16, 2026. Completed applications and supporting documents must be emailed to info@salisburyfarmersmarket.net. Vendors will be selected through application only. Completed applications will be considered and voted on by

the Board of Directors. Vendors will be notified of the board's decision by email from the market manager. All applications submitted after the March 16 deadline will be reviewed within 30 days of being received and handled on a case-by-case basis depending on market demand or added to a waiting list for the fall market. The Board of directors reserves the right to accept applications for items they feel will add value to the market at any time during the market season.

Communication

- The vendor's primary point of contact is the SFM Market Manager at info@salisburyfarmersmarket.net.
- Official vendor communication from SFM occurs through email and online forms.
- Vendors will receive a Market Attendance & Offerings email at the beginning of the week prior to the upcoming Saturday market.
- Vendors are required to reply to the email by Wednesday evening to verify attendance.
- Verified vendors (by email response) will be included in the newsletter, social media posts, market map, and other weekly promotions.
- Vendor emails may also include important reminders, updates, and announcements.
- Email is the preferred method for communicating with the Market Manager regarding ideas, concerns, feedback, or questions.
- Newsletters are published weekly (must be on newsletter email list)
- Annual Market & Vendor Interest Meeting. The Annual Meeting is usually held the last Monday in January.

Market Offerings

- Refer to the items a vendor plans to bring and sell at the market each week.
- Weekly Market Offerings updates are required by each vendor.
- This information should be kept accurate and up to date.
- Customers rely on these details to plan their shopping and appreciate knowing what will be available.
- Link to Market Offerings is included in weekly Market Attendance and Offerings email.
- If you are not listed, please add your Business name and Market Offerings to the bottom of the list. The Market Manager will add your listing to the correct heading and update all formatting. If you are unable to update the form you can email your Market Offerings when you respond to the Market Attendance email.
-  2026 Market Offerings for Newsletter ([active link the Google Doc](#))

General Information

- Outlets are available in 3 locations, extension cords are not provided and are prohibited from crossing the market walkway.
- A restroom is available towards the right rear of the Railwalk Pavilion
- Lights are automatic in the market pavilion
- The market pavilion has fans in the ceiling to circulate air.
- You can bring heaters for your booth during cold market days

SFM Gift Certificates

Salisbury Farmers Market Gift Certificates are purchased by customers and given as prizes. They are in \$5, \$10, \$20 & \$50

- No change given
- All Vendors can accept these gift certificates
- Turn in received SFM Gift Certificates as part of your booth rent.

Rates for 2026

- The annual market vendor membership fee of \$100 is required by all vendors attending 5 or more markets during Prime season. This fee covers; expenses, vendor listings on the market website, newsletter, social media pages, newspaper, and other promotional options.
- Market Member booth rental fee is \$15.00 for a 12x10 space and \$10 for a 6x10 space.
- Produce vendors are allowed to rent up to 2 12x10 spaces.
- Non-members' fees (if approved as a fall vendor, food truck, specialty, or attending no more than 4 markets) are \$25.00 for a 12x10 spot and \$20 for a 6x10 spot.
- The Salisbury Farmers Market Board of Directors may permit a “partner” to sell unique products at the market through another SFM member. The “partner” must complete a separate application and pay \$10 per market day.
- ALL PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Market Information

The Salisbury Farmers Market rules are established to uphold and accomplish the purposes of the market. The market operation is administered by the Market Manager and or the Board of Directors. Vendors are required to follow all rules, guidelines and code of conduct set forth in this and other documents provided by Salisbury Rowan Farmers Market as well as all state and federal laws governing farmers markets.

As part of SFM's mission to create a vibrant community gathering place, we welcome people from throughout the community and are committed to diversity, inclusivity, and tolerance. SFM does not discriminate and actively includes people of all races, ethnicities, national origins, religions, genders, sexualities, and abilities.

General Rules

- All market participants must certify that they have read the SFM Rules, SFM Guidelines and Code Of Conduct and Meat and Poultry Guidelines (if applicable).
- All fees can be paid by cash or check; weekly, monthly, or seasonally to the market manager. (fees are collected by the market manager or market representative every Saturday by mid-morning)
- Unpaid fees will result in vendor suspension from SFM until paid.
- Vendor participation at the Salisbury Farmers Market is a privilege and is granted at the sole discretion of the SFM Board of Directors or Market Manager.
- Vendor selection and continued participation are based on factors including product offerings, space availability, and the goal of maintaining a balanced and diverse market.
- The Board of directors or Market Manager reserves the right to revoke vendor privileges at any time.
- Produce, meat, and items grown for Value-Added products require site inspections/certifications by Rowan County Cooperative Extension. If a vendor does not meet SFM requirements after the site visit, SFM reserves the right to not allow or remove the vendor from the market. The certification must be renewed every three years, and updated annually if items grown by the vendor change. The certification must be on file with the market manager before you attend the market.
- The County Extension Agent, Board of director members, or market manager may inspect farms during the market season to verify crop production.
- If a vendor's growing, sourcing, or selling methods change from what is stated in the application, the vendor must notify the Market Manager promptly before attending the next market.
- Pre-ordered items being sold must also comply with market rules.
- All products sold during the 2026 season must be listed on your application.
- SFM does not offer exclusive rights to any vendor to sell any specific product, duplicate products can be denied entry into the market if the Board of Directors believe the number of sellers offering the same or similar products is excessive.

- Vendors must submit an amended application for any new item(s) not listed on their original application to be approved by the market board of directors. Amended applications will be reviewed within 30 days and an approval or denial email will be sent before any new items will be permitted at the market.
- New item(s) that require an inspection; the vendor will be notified and a re-inspection must be submitted before the item(s) are approved.
- Vendors selling qualifying products must accept EBT/SNAP dollars, NC Senior Farmers Market vouchers, and WIC Vouchers provided by local non-profits. Appropriate acceptance signage must be displayed (ie. "SNAP/EBT Accepted Here"). See Market Nutrition Incentive Program document for more information. .
- Pets are not allowed in the market due to food safety concerns. Exceptions are allowed for service animals.
- All individuals working at a vendor booth must wash their hands before the market begins and after each restroom visit to help prevent the spread of germs and bacteria.

Market Day Procedures

- All vendors, food trucks, non-profits, special guests, and market participants must adhere to the following.
- Vendors must be completely set up and ready to sell 15 minutes before market opening.
- Tables, tablecloths, extension cords, tents, setup, breakdown, and all necessary equipment are the sole responsibility of the vendor.
- Prices must be clearly posted for all items sold, and all signage must meet market standards.
- Vendors are responsible for securing tents and signage with appropriate weights to prevent injury or damage.
- Vehicles must be removed from the Market Pavilion, street, and upper parking lot by 7:30 a.m., unless approved by the Market Manager to remain with the booth.
- Upon entering the Pavilion, upper parking lot, and Kerr St. vendors must unload items and move their vehicles before setting up displays to allow adequate flow for other vendors setting up.
- No vehicles may enter the market area at closing until 12:15 p.m. or until all shoppers have exited.
- Vendors who need to leave early must notify the Market Manager as soon as possible.
- Vendors experiencing delays or emergencies should contact the Market Manager immediately.
- Vendors must park in the second half of the four designated parking lots:
 - Behind the market off E. Cemetery Street
 - NC License Plate Agency parking lot
 - Lee Street Theatre parking lot
 - Rouzer's parking lot off Depot Street
- E. Kerr Street will be closed by 7:15 a.m.; no vehicle traffic will be allowed afterward until vendors have completed their market day.
- Vendors arriving less than 30 minutes before market opening must park outside the market area and carry in items.
- Vendors arriving after market opening may set up at the Market Manager's discretion.
- Vendors must communicate promptly if they will miss a market day or arrive late.
- All participants must remain kind and courteous toward vendors, shoppers, volunteers, staff, and Board members.
- Appropriate and respectful clothing is required.
- Children must be supervised by an adult at the vendor's booth and may not wander the grounds without adult supervision.
- The market takes no responsibility for the safety or whereabouts of children.
- Any injury suffered while on the premises is not the responsibility of the farmers' market.
- Smoking is prohibited in the market area during setup, market hours, and breakdown.

- Vendors must remain free of alcohol and illegal drugs during setup, market hours, and breakdown.
- SFM maintains an open-door policy and welcomes vendor feedback, ideas, and suggestions at any time.
- The Market Manager is authorized to enforce all market rules. Any issues that arise will be addressed by the Market Manager.
- First offense: The vendor will be asked to correct the issue immediately or leave the premises until in compliance.
- Second offense: The matter will be referred to the Salisbury Farmers Market Board of Directors.

Signs

- Vendors must display clear, easy-to-read signs with their business name and location.
- Prices must be displayed for all items.
- Vendors who accept SNAP/EBT, Farmers Market WIC, Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, or other assistance programs must display acceptance signage at every market.

Space Assignments

To ensure fairness for both returning and new vendors, the Board of Directors has established a space assignment priority protocol for Prime Season (Market Opening – September 25, 2026)

- Reserved space selection priority is determined in the following order:
 1. Produce
 2. Meat
 3. Flowers/Plants
 4. Bakers
 5. Honey
 6. Jams & Jellies
 7. Soap
 8. Crafts & Miscellaneous
 9. Prior-year market membership
 10. Seniority of market attendance
- Weekly space assignments are managed by the Market Manager based on reserved space priority, vendor participation, maintain market consistency, and balance.
- Vendors who miss two consecutive market weeks may have their space reassigned at the Market Manager's discretion.
- The Market Manager reserves the right to move vendors as needed to accommodate additional vendors; relocated spaces will remain in relative proximity.
- Only produce vendors are eligible to request double market spaces (two 12' spaces) during Prime Season.

Code of Conduct

As a SFM Vendor, you agree to

- Treat vendors, staff, volunteers, Board members, and shoppers with respect and kindness.
- Maintain integrity and truthfulness regarding products sold and production practices.
- Uphold SFM's mission and values and serve as an ambassador of the Market during and outside market hours, including online and promotional materials.
- Follow SFM protocols for addressing conflicts or concerns by contacting the Market Manager.
- Communicate promptly if you will be late or unable to attend a market day.
- Refrain from publicly promoting or advocating political opinions during market hours; SFM is politically neutral.

- No “hawking” of products, distraction of customers from another vendor’s booth, or disparaging of another vendor’s goods will be tolerated.
- Comply with all SFM Market Day Rules and Guidelines.

Vendor Product Guidelines

Produce/Fruit

- Market opening through June 1; 50% of the value of all produce and plant offered must be grown and produced by the vendor. June 2 through the end of the market; 75% of the value of produce and plants sold must be grown and produced by the vendor. The market manager has the authority to ask for a list of items a vendor has at the market, their place of origin, and their value. If the vendor is out of compliance, they will be asked to remove and not sell those items. If this rule is broken 2 times, the vendor will be asked to leave the market and not allowed to attend the remainder of the season.
- All produce not grown by the vendor must be labeled with the place of origin and item price.
- All scales must be approved as “Legal for Trade.” Anyone using scales must have them certified by the NCDA.

Flowers (Cut or dried), Plants

- 100% of flowers must be grown, cultivated, or foraged on/from the vendor’s property they own or have a written lease agreement.
- Plants must be grown for at least 30 days by the producer..
- Wild foraged plants must be grown for a minimum of 30 days on the producer's farm

Meat, Eggs. & Fish

- All vendors selling meat and poultry must have a current meat handler’s license from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Please see the “Meat Vendor Guideline” for more information.
- All eggs must be produced by the vendor's poultry and labeled according to NCDA guidelines.
- All fish must meet state and local health regulations.

Dairy and Cheese

- Dairy products must meet state and local health regulations.
- Cheese must be made with milk produced by the vendor.

Honey

- Must be produced from the bees owned by the vendor and maintained on property owned or through written lease agreements.

Artisan crafters

- The number of vendors will be limited to the season and available space.
- Crafts must be 100% handcrafted by the vendor and pre-approved by the market manager or SFM Board of Directors.
- All craft items must be top-quality and may not be entirely pre-fabricated. Instead, craft items should reflect experience and dedication to a specific craft.
- Crafts should be handmade, such as hand-sewn, knitted, or crocheted items, hand-spun yarns, hand-carved wood items, furniture, handmade baskets, natural wreaths, forged items, hand-dipped candles, handmade soaps, handmade pottery, etc.

Value-Added

(Artisan Bakers, Jams, Jellies, Fruit Preserves, Sauces, Coffee, Beverages, Wine, Mead)

- A value-added product is a commodity that has been enhanced to increase its value to consumers and may be sold for more than the cost of raw materials. Examples include baked goods, milling wheat into flour, making strawberries into jam, infusing lotions or deodorants, or creating oil infusions with herbs, cleaning products, bees wax candles.
- Sellers of these products must abide by all applicable federal, state and local health regulations, including the required inspection of the seller's kitchen.
- Copies of pertinent inspection forms, licenses, and permits must be filed with the market manager.
- Inform the market manager of any change in licensing status immediately.
- Baked goods, jams, jellies and preserves can be produced in a home-based kitchen which must pass an NCDA&CS kitchen inspection.

(Food & Drug - Food Program - Home Processor | NC Agriculture)

- Products requiring refrigeration must be produced in a non-home based, inspected commercial facility. An FDA or USDA inspected commercial kitchen may be required in some cases.
- All baked goods must be fresh and be prepared from scratch (no commercially prepared dough mixes, crusts/shells or fillings).
- Unwrapped baked goods handed out directly to customers and sold from clean covered bulk containers are not required to be packaged and labelled, A list of ingredients is required. Clean tongs or other utensils, single-use gloves, or single-use wax paper sheets should be used to place the baked goods in a clean, unused bag or container, or handed directly to the customer. Consumers are not allowed to self-serve from covered bulk containers.
- All federal, state and local packaging and labelling regulations must be observed.
- Fresh Value-Added Dairy: Must be packaged in individual containers and kept appropriately chilled at market. Container labeling must state that the fresh foods should be promptly refrigerated, have a limited shelf life, list ingredients, net weight, business name, and phone number.

Samples

- Vendors may offer customers samples of their products, but safe food practices must be followed.
- Wash hands thoroughly before cutting samples or wear single-use gloves.
- Wash produce before cutting samples with a clean knife & cutting board.
- Produce samples must be put in a container set in ice or on a cold pack and should be covered.
- Hot samples must be kept hot. If these are heated at the market, any pans or other appliances should be kept behind the vendor and out of the reach of customers.
- Please provide toothpicks, and use tongs or sample cups to serve individual samples. Samples should be prepared with gloved hands.

Young Entrepreneurs Day (YED) (May 30, August 29, October 31)

- We offer 3 YED market Saturdays. The markets are for children 18 and under who make Artisan Crafts.
- Crafts must be 100% handcrafted by the vendor and pre-approved by the market manager or SFM Board of Directors.
- All craft items must be top-quality and may not be entirely pre-fabricated. Instead, craft items should reflect experience and dedication to a specific craft.

- Crafts should be handmade, such as hand-sewn, knitted, or crocheted items, hand-spun yarns, hand-carved wood items, furniture, handmade baskets, natural wreaths, forged items, hand-dipped candles, handmade soaps, handmade pottery, etc.
- Any young person interested in attending the market as a regular vendor is welcome to apply as an Artisan Crafter and will follow the same guidelines.

Non-Profit & Community Partners

- Must fill out an application and provide dates of attendance, programs to host, or reason for applying, ie promoting an event or organization, helping with Kids Club, offering market centered programs for market customers.
- Must follow all market procedures, guidelines and rules.
- Must get dates and program approval before attending the market.

Other Items

- Items not listed above will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- The market manager and or SFMBoD will establish guidelines for these items.

Food Trucks

- If you plan to attend the Salisbury Farmers Market, contact Rowan County Environmental Health at environmentalhealth@rowancountync.gov to provide a date and copy of your inspection or certification.
- Notify your truck's home County Environmental Inspector if you are attending and your inspection is not from Rowan County.
- Email a copy of your inspection or certification, menu, and logo to info@salisburyfarmersmarket.net
- Arrive by 7:30 a.m.
- Space rental is \$25.00, collected during markets you attend.

Sale NOT allowed

- No “low-acid” canned foods such as green beans, corn, peas, carrots, tomatoes, etc.
- Live animals, Flea market type items
- Pickles, low acid canned foods (such as beans, corn, tomatoes, etc. as specified by NC Dept. of Agriculture)
- Items that are unwholesome or unsound.

Market Nutrition Incentive Programs

The Salisbury Farmers Market proudly participates in several programs that make it easier for customers to access fresh, healthy, local food. Below is a breakdown of each program and how vendors are to redeem them.

SFMNP – Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

July 1 - September 30. Checks must all be deposited by October 31.

Eligible Purchases

- Fresh fruits
- Fresh vegetables
- Fresh-cut herbs –NOT potted or dried herbs
- Local -Raw Honey

SFMNP Non-Eligible Foods

- –No processed, heated, or cooked foods
- SFMNP vouchers may not be used to purchase: eggs, meat, nuts, seeds, jelly, jam, baked goods, plants, seafood, cheese, flowers, or other non-food items, or items not produced on local farms.
- Items available for out of North Carolina



ROOT Kids Club "ROOT Tastebud Bucks"

Tastebud Bucks are given to children who participate in the Tastebud Challenge at the market. I will send an email with the ROOT Tastebud Bucks voucher when we get our logo created. No change given on purchases

Eligible Purchases:

ROOT Tastebud Bucks can be used to purchase:

- Fresh vegetables
- Fresh fruits
- Meats
- Eggs
- Honey

Non-eligible items include beverages, baked goods, jams & jelly, specialty items, and crafts.

Redemption Process:

ROOT Tastebud Bucks are turned into the market manager at the market booth at your convenience. Funds will be tallied, entered into a spread sheet and receipt given. Checks will be written at the last market of the month.

Rowan Farm and Food Network Vouchers

Rowan Farm and Food Network provides vouchers that are grant funded to Salisbury Pediatrics, WIC customers and Yadkin House for distribution through their organizations.

The vouchers are in \$5 increments.

No change given

Vouchers can purchase

- produce,
- eggs,
- meat, and
- vegetable/fruit plants.

Non-eligible items include bread, pastries, honey, coffee or other market items.

Vouchers are collected regularly (usually every 3 weeks) and reimbursed by Rowan Food and Farm Network.

Checks are usually issued the week after collection.

