

Billerica Farmers Market
Lawn area in front of the Billerica Council of Aging
Monday afternoons June 19 through October 2, 2017

Billerica Farmers Market General Rules

The following rules are derived from a standard set drafted by the Federation of Mass. Farmers Markets (FMFM), changed to fit our special situation in Billerica. The intent of these rules is to maintain a secure structure for the Market in order for the participating farmers to operate in the best possible fashion.

1. Location: Lawn area in front of the Billerica COA facility, located at 25 Concord Road, Billerica, Massachusetts. Observe the traffic pattern posted around the Billerica Senior Center. All vendors must enter via the front driveway and exit only onto Blanchard Street. After unloading vehicles vendors must park behind the Senior Center. We do have reserved parking along Blanchard Avenue for farms only. We must all make our market as pedestrian safe as possible. Please talk to a Market Manager if you have any questions or concerns.

2. Dates and Hours of Operation: Monday afternoons from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm (or dusk) starting on June 19, 2017 until October 2, 2017. We close earlier in September and October.

3. Registration: All farmers and prepared food vendors are required to register and join the Farmers Market by the registration deadline. The registration fee (\$15) will cover the first attendance at the first market.

4. Spaces: Will be assigned by the Market Manager in consultation with the farmers, prepared food vendors and the Market Committee based upon tradition, balance and fairness.

5. Weekly fees: \$15 per week for 10 X 10 foot area. \$30 per week for 10 X 20 foot area. A 15% discount will be extended to vendors who register for the whole season.

6. Products: All produce, plants, flowers, eggs, honey, cider, cheese, etc. must be grown and produced by the farmers of the Market. Exception: farmers may bring produce from a local farm as long as it is labeled as such. Ideally produce will be grown organically or using Integrated Pest Management. It will be free of genetically modified organisms (GMO's).

7. Quality: All products should be top or grade A quality; seconds or "canners" may be offered; but, must be labeled as such. The Market Manager has the right to ban any inferior products from the Market. No warrantee; however, expressed or implied is made by the Market Manager or the Market Committee as the quality of products sold.

8. Prices: Prices will be fair market value, negotiated by the farmer, prepared food vendor, and the customer. All products must have prices clearly marked. Products must be sold by piece, bunch, container or weight.

9. Weight: Scales should be sealed by an official town or state Scale of Weights and measures. Household scales are not permitted.

10. Prepared Foods: As long as a farmer sells a majority of fresh produce, the farmer may bring bread, jellies, jams, and similar processed foods made by themselves. The farmer is responsible for complying with all requirements and licenses set by local and state governments. Vendor is responsible for obtaining Billerica Health Permit

Prepared foods offered by farmers and prepared food vendors should be made from fresh, local seasonal ingredients.

11. Non-Farm Products: Must be high quality, locally made, take skill and creativity, and the vendor must add at least 75% of the total value to the product. The product(s) must be complementary to a farmers' market. We may restrict the number of vendors selling similar products (e.g. we restrict bakers to 4). Environmental friendliness is strongly preferred.

12. Set up and display: All farmers and prepared food vendors should arrive at the market before starting time allowing sufficient time to set up their products/produce and display by opening time. Each farmer and prepared food vendor is responsible for setting up his/her display and provide protection for their produce from the elements. Each vendor is responsible for securing their canopies with weights to prevent injury from windstorms. No PEGS will be used to secure canopies.

13. Opening and closing: Normally no products may be sold before the starting time of 3:00 PM. though the Market Manager may permit sales under certain circumstances. Farmers and prepared food vendors may sell while preparing to breakdown at closing until 7:00 PM, but should leave the parking area by 7:30PM. Farmers will leave their assigned spaces in broom clean condition at Market closing.

14. No Hawking: Business must be conducted from inside the booth. No farm or non-farm vendor may approach attendees outside their booths.

15. Attendance: If a farmer or prepared food vendor is unable to attend on any given week, they must let the Market Manager know by noon on market day.

16. Insurance: The market is covered by liability insurance through the Federation of Farmer's Markets. It is required that the farmers and prepared food vendors have their own insurance.

17. NO PETS: Pets are NOT PERMITTED in the Billerica Farmers Market area per order of the Billerica Board of Health.

18. Compliance with rules: Farmers must permit inspection of their farms to verify compliance with the rules. On a co-operative basis, each farmer in the market will permit visits and make visits to every other farm in the market for a tour by the host farmer to view plantings, machinery, acreage, etc. On an adversarial basis, upon the complaint of one or two farmers and the Market Manager any farmer will permit the visit by the complaining parties along with a representative of the MFM and/or the Department of Food and Agriculture within 72 hours of the complaint, the field which from which the vegetable or vegetables was harvested is not to be altered. The violating farm is subject to a penalty of suspension from the Market for 12 months upon a two thirds vote from the Market Committee. Prepared food vendors must also allow for visits should there be a complaint, following the above statement.

19. Cooperation: Cooperation is expected. Members must be willing to follow Market rules and be willing to cooperate with management and other farmers, many of whom are direct competitors. Any member who does not follow the rules, or who regularly shows an inability or unwillingness to cooperate, or is otherwise disruptive to the upbeat activities of the Market may be temporarily or permanently evicted from the Market by the Market Manager, upon consultation with the other farmers and the Market Committee.

20. Management: The Market Manager, or Market Master, is the official manager of the Market. If problems arise, disputes will be settled by the Market Manager upon consultation with the farmers and the Market Committee. In the interest of promptness, decisions on any questions by the Market Manager shall be final.

21. Donations: Farmers and prepared food vendors are encouraged to donate products and produce at the end of the market, to be collected for local food pantries and meals for the elderly at the COA.

22. New Members: Membership in the Billerica Farmers Market is limited by space. The Market Manager shall keep a waiting list of prepared food vendors, farmers and crafters who want to join the market. In the event spaces become available, farmers and prepared food vendors and crafters will be selected by the Market Manager with consultation with the Market Committee. Criteria for selection will be length of time on the waiting list and product variety, selections to be made with the best interest of the Market and customers in mind. Massachusetts farmers are preferred; but, other farmers from New England states may be invited to become members by the Market Manager if they have a special product that is not present at the Market. Crafters will be limited to no more than roughly 10% of available space.