



## Farmers' Markets Reopen

Farmers' Markets across the State are beginning to open for the season, with safety in mind.

May and June typically mark the start of the State's summer farmers market season, and this year is no different. COVID-19 may have slowed down the initial opening of some markets, but many have begun opening or will do so shortly. There are, of course, some changes to the typical market experience as markets follow the State's social distancing recommendations.

Although there are general regulations put forth by the State, towns are also introducing regulations that affect how markets are able to run. Farmer's markets across the State have been working to create guidelines that meet these requirements while also providing the best market experience possible. This means that it is a good idea to check for specific requirements before attending. You can typically find these details on a market's website or Facebook page!

You can expect to see vendors and customers wearing masks at the Canterbury Community Farmers Market and taking advantage of the available hand sanitizer. According to the market's webpage, the number of customers in the market, and the general flow of customers will be controlled as needed and enforced with friendliness.

The Rochester Farmers Market will have hand a sanitizing station for customers to use upon arrival and as desired. Although not all markets are allowing the use of reusable bags at this time, they are acceptable at this market, but cannot be placed on a vendor's table. Per city and state regulations, only 54 people are allowed in the market at a time.

The Farmers' Market of Keene opened for the first time at the end of April and has been observing the town and governor's social distancing guidelines. As of April 21, no reusable bags were allowed. Like with many other markets, customers are not allowed to touch items for sale, but vendors will be ready to help with purchases.

At the Wolfeboro Area Farmers Market booths are being spaced out to maximize social distancing. There will also be easy to see markers to help customers maintain their distance from each other. Vendors will be sanitizing their spaces regularly, and there will be one vendor present to accept payment and one to process and order.

Markets across the State are keeping vendor and customer safety a top priority. Most markets are asking that customers wear face masks or face coverings when attending. Vendors will be wearing gloves and sanitizing their space regularly. Many markets are asking customers to limit their numbers by only having one member of a household attend.

Overall, the goal seems to be the same no matter where you might be in the State: provide fresh local foods while keeping everyone as happy and healthy as possible. If you are looking to purchase fresh local foods, consider visiting a farmer's market near you, and remember to look into each market's social distancing guidelines.

Click the link below for a list of New Hampshire farmer's markets and their locations.

[New Hampshire Magazine: New Hampshire Farmers Markets](#)



## Agricultural Business Spotlight

**Independence Acres, LLC** – Canaan, NH – (603) 523-7971

Maranda Strandell

Beef & Pork

Online Orders

Email: [independenceacresllc@gmail.com](mailto:independenceacresllc@gmail.com)

Facebook: [Independent Acres LLC](#)

**Warner Public Market** – 19 East Main Street, Warner, NH – (603) 456-2602

Beef, Pork, Chicken, Buffalo & Lamb

Website: [warnerpublicmarket.com](http://warnerpublicmarket.com)

Email: [info@warnerpublicmarket.com](mailto:info@warnerpublicmarket.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/warnerpublicmarket/>

*Click on the interactive hyperlinks to be redirected to websites and Facebook pages!*

**Blue Cord Farm** – Deerfield, NH

John Leslie

Chickens – July/August & Pigs – July

Email: [bluecordfarm@gmail.com](mailto:bluecordfarm@gmail.com)

Facebook: [Blue Cord Farm](#)

---

We want to promote our agricultural businesses by spotlighting them and their products. If you would like to be featured in our newsletter, please email [swilson.dfs@gmail.com](mailto:swilson.dfs@gmail.com) or message our Facebook page!

## Story of the Week

With fairs across the region canceling due to COVID-19, many 4-H members are wondering how they will advertise and sell their market animals.

New Hampshire has only one 4-H livestock auction held each year during the Hopkinton State Fair on Labor Day weekend. The Hopkinton State Fair has announced that they will not be running this year. The New Hampshire 4-H announced several weeks ago that there will be no in-person events for the rest of the show season. With no auction taking place this fall, alternatives are in the works to help 4-H members sell their projects.

Michelle Bersaw-Robblee is a New Hampshire 4-H Field Specialist and a vital part of leading the NH 4-H Livestock Auction each year. In an interview, she explained that New Hampshire 4-H is “looking to work with our marketing and communications department to create an online website that 4-H’ers could post to.” This webpage would allow members to post pictures, videos, and descriptions of their projects for potential buyers. “We are going to hopefully help connect the public to locally raised animals that happen also to be a 4-H project,” said Bersaw-Robblee.

The decision to cancel the auction was not an easy one for New Hampshire 4-H, but one made with the well-being of members in mind. Hopkinton State Fair Beef Superintendent and local 4-H Leader Guy LaRochelle explained that “a lot of kids already have their projects up and going. Right now, they are just going through the motions and taking care of their animals every day.” Many members purchased their projects months ago with their savings and continue to work diligently with them every day. All of these factors were taken into consideration before making the difficult decision to cancel the auction.

Fortunately, the demand for meat is currently rising, and members are optimistic that they will still be able to sell their projects. In a recent meeting with auction participants, Bersaw-Robblee discussed with members their thoughts on the situation. “A lot of the members felt that there is enough demand, so they would be able to sell their animals without the auction. We are trying to be very aware of our decision. We did not want to leave anyone in a lurch.”

Planning is already underway for the creation of the marketing webpage. All of these decisions are very new, so the project is still in the early stages of development. The auction typically occurs in September, so the goal is to have the webpage up and running by then. “These animals will not be available until September because that is when they come to market weight. Between now and then, we will be working to make sure everyone has a buyer,” explained Bersaw-Robblee.

Bersaw-Robblee was asked how potential buyers would be able to have their animals processed. “Once we get the website up and running, it is between the buyer and the seller. When I talked to members, some of them were going to call in and make sure they had processing dates slated for that buyer.” There are approximately four beef, ten swine, five lambs, and four goats expected to be available for purchase.

One of the concerns that came from canceling the auction was the loss of educational experience for the 4-H members. With a market project members keep detailed records of their work to show their hard work and help them document their knowledge for future projects. This includes the animal’s information such as feed they require, daily habits, cost of feed, and care. Bersaw-Robblee explained that “we are always tied to education with 4-H so the way that our 4-H’ers would receive entrance onto the webpage, is by still completing their market record book, that way there is still a learning process.”

Bersaw-Robblee feels that supporting local 4-H members is extremely important. As a past 4-H member herself, with an extremely active career, she understands first-hand the value of community support. She explained that “it’s a symbiotic relationship, 4-H members support their community and their community supports them. It’s not just about animal science, horticulture, or woodworking; they’re building bigger life skills like emotional regulation, social contacting, communications, teamwork, and all of those financial responsibilities. Research shows us that youth need connections beyond their immediate family of supportive adults. For them, that is their 4-H leader and project leader, but also the community in which they are interacting with these projects.”

LaRochelle also feels strongly about the subject and believes that 4-H and raising market animals “gives youth an opportunity to develop their skills raising livestock, managing livestock and managing their lives, plus developing a good work ethic.”

Purchasing a 4-H market animal is a great way to fill your freezer while also supporting local agricultural youth. If you are looking to buy an animal, be on the lookout for the upcoming New Hampshire 4-H Livestock Auction webpage. Also, consider contacting your local 4-H clubs or extension agent to find a 4-H member selling livestock near you.

## Event News

Stratham Fair – July 16 - 19 – CANCELLED  
North Haverhill Fair – July 23 - 26 – CANCELLED  
Cheshire Fair – July 30 - August 2 – CANCELLED  
Belknap County 4-H Fair – August 1 & 2 – CANCELLED  
The Cornish Fair – August 21 - 23 – CANCELLED  
Lancaster Fair – September 3 - 7 – CANCELLED  
Hopkinton State Fair – September 4 - 7 – CANCELLED  
Hillsborough County Agricultural Fair – September 11 - 13 – CANCELLED  
The Deerfield Fair – October 1 - 4  
Fryeburg Fair – October 4 - 11 – CANCELLED  
The Sandwich Fair – October 10 - 12 – CANCELLED

## Additional Resources

Click on the link to go to Visit NH and see what events may still be happening around the State.

[VisitNH.gov/things-to-do/event-calendar/festivals](https://www.visitnh.gov/things-to-do/event-calendar/festivals)