



Bigfork Farmers' Market Rules and Regulations

The Bigfork Farmers' Market Cooperative provides a venue for vendors from Lake, Flathead, and Sanders County. Vendors from these counties are welcome to participate in the market if they are full time residents or summer residents and grow, prepare or make the products they sell. The market is registered with the Flathead County Department of Health and vendors are required to follow the rules and regulations of the State of Montana and the County. The markets are monitored by the Department of Health and vendors required to be license to sell their products must display the license at their booth. Also, you must display your report card from the Health Department for the commercial kitchen used.

2020 Market Fees:	Members:	\$ 5.00 per day per vendor
	Non- Members:	\$ 10.00 per day per vendor
	Members only discounted prepay	\$ 110.00
	Nonmembers discounted prepay	\$ 220.00

- Permanent spot included with membership & restrictions- see Market manager for details

2020 Market Schedule

Date/Time: Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m. Starting date May 13-Oct. 7 (Set up time starts at 2PM)

Location: All markets will be held at the Bigfork Liquor Barn – 22 Swan way Bigfork, Montana across Your Turn gas station.

If you are interested in joining the cooperative, please submit your application and request. The Board of Directors will review your request and upon acceptance you will be provided with the following: Certificate for one common stock, a membership card, voting rights, opportunity to participate in company decision making, opportunity to become a board member and a copy of the bylaws. Contact the Market Manager for a packet.

More than one vendor may share a booth, but both vendors must be present at all times, pay separately, and complete separate applications.

- The sale of alcohol is prohibited at this market (except for the Bigfork Liquor Barn)

Labeling: All packaged products must contain a label. The label should include a list of ingredients, name and address of the producer and where it was made.

Produce: A license is not required of a gardener, farm owner, or farm operator who sells raw and unprocessed farm products at a farmer's market.

1. All produce needs to be grown and harvested by the vendor, no resale of purchased produce.
2. All produce will be sold in its natural form.
 - a. Wash, only if needed, using clean water
 - b. Do not cut produce to be sold in smaller units or to be given out as samples.
 - c. Do not use oil, wax or any other substance on produce to increase visual appeal of the item.
 - d. Produce should be in its natural state, no drying, freezing, roasting, shelling or peeling.
 - e. Protect soft fruits in a cooler or in a shady place to promote continued freshness.

“MCA 50-50-102. Definitions (17) “Raw agricultural commodity” means any food in its raw, unaltered state, including fruits, vegetables, raw honey, and grains. This does not include

- a. Cooked
- b. Canned
- c. Preserved, except for drying
- d. Combined with other food products; or
- e. Peeled, diced, cut, blanched, or otherwise subjected to value-adding procedures.

Produce Gift Basket- Baskets cannot contain non produce items unless they are under dual category of produce and crafts or produce and processed foods. Dual category items will need to be juried and follow the rules for each category represented.

Potted Plants

- a. Potted plants need to be grown by the vendor from seed, cuttings, bulbs, or seedlings. Purchased cuttings, rooted or not rooted and purchased seedlings need to be purchased at least 60 days before sale.
- b. No potted plants may be sold if bought for resale.
- c. To obtain a nursery license please visit <https://agr.mt.gov/Nursery-Licensing> Fees are decided on a tiered system.

Cut Flowers

- a. All cut flowers must be grown and cut from the vendor's own garden.
- b. Dried flower material must also come from the vendor's own garden.
- c. The vendor may not add flowers purchased for resale into arrangements

Non- Potentially hazardous foods which include the following are permitted:

- a. Baked goods such as loaf breads; rolls, biscuits, muffins, pastries, scones, cookies, pastry bars, cakes and fruit pies (no custard pies or unbaked fresh fruit pies or pies that require refrigeration are prohibited).
- b. Snack mixes such as trail mixes, cereals, nuts and nut mixes.
- c. Cake frosting and glazes must be made with ingredients that are steady at room temperature.
- d. Dry Herbs
- e. Popped popcorn, popcorn balls and cotton candy
- f. Fudge and candies that do not require refrigeration
- g. Molded chocolate

Jams, Jellies, and Fruit Butters

- a. Must contain at least 55% added sugar by weight (no large chunks of fruit)
- b. Fruit butters made with apple, apricot, grape, pear, plum, prune, and quince. Listed fruits can be combined.
- c. Fruit Jellies made with apple, apricot, blackberry, cherry, raspberry, strawberry and etc.
- d. Fruit Preserves and Jams made with the same fruits as jellies as well as rhubarb and tomato.

Eggs

- a. Whole eggs shall be clean, free of cracks and stored in clean cartons
- b. Eggs shall be kept at 45 degrees or less
- c. Carry a label indicating the name and address of the farm owner or operator selling the eggs.

Huckleberries

- a. Huckleberries that are not processed do not require a food license.
- b. Those who harvest huckleberries may be required to obtain a permit from the Forest Service.

Salsa, pickles, oil and vinegar mixtures, sauerkraut or pepper jelly

- a. Requires a food license to sell
- b. Must be processed in a locally licensed facility approved by the county.

Processed Poultry/Meats

- a. Requires a retail license
- b. Producer will need to contact the Montana Department of Livestock, Meat and Poultry Bureau for requirements.

*** The sale of CBD Food Products or Dietary Supplements is prohibited.**

Arts and Crafts

- a. Craft items need to be handmade by the vendor, no purchased for resale items unless they have been creatively altered as part of a completed product (beads into jewelry etc).
 - b. Art items need to be originals, designed by the vendor and may include: sculptures, paintings, drawings, photos and etc. Manufacturing of art items may or may not be completed by the vendor depending on the process required to finish the item.
 - c. Gift baskets must contain a majority of handmade items with limited supportive items. Made in Montana supportive items preferred
 - d. All arts and crafts items will go through a jury team for approval. The jury team will be available during set up time at each market to allow qualified vendors to setup and sell on the same day of request.
- Please contact your market manager to request a copy of the 2020 Montana Farmer's Market Guidelines.

For more information please contact:

Questions about the Montana Department of Agriculture Produce Act and its requirements may be sent to Lkrum@mt.gov or answered by calling 406-444-5419.

For additional information on farmer's markets and registrations, please contact your local sanitarian. Contact information is available online with the DPHHS-FCS interactive map or call 406-444-2837.

General Rules for all vendors

1. Because we are working at a private venue, please remember to honor **the smoking in designated areas rule**.
2. Upon arrival, check in with the market manager, he/she will guide you to your booth area.
3. As soon as everyone is set up the market manager will come around and collect your fees.
4. Vendors will be given 1 hour before and 1 hour after each market to set up and tear down their booth. For insurance purposes, a market manager must be on duty at all times during market activities which includes set-up and take down. **ABSOLUTELY NO EARLY TAKE DOWN UNLESS THERE IS AN EMERGENCY.**
5. Booths shall be arranged in a safe manner.
6. Mark your booth with a sign that includes your business name, address, and contact number.
7. Please have available waste container for your booth area.
8. For the safety of the pets, vendors and customers **pets must be leashed at all times**. We ask that owners please clean up after their pets. Service or Seeing Eye dogs will be welcome. If you have live animals for sale bring pictures and related information to share with your customers and make arrangements for sale and pickup at your business address or delivery to the consumer.
9. Be pleasant and assist the consumer whenever possible.
10. A cooperative Information Center will be set up at the manager's booth.
11. Leave the venue in the same or in a better condition than when you came and set up. Be sure to pick up all trash.
12. Vendor Spaces will be assigned as follows
 - a. Board Members are given 1st choice in the order of their member # as seniority.
 - b. All other members will have the next choice after board members in order of their member # as well.
 - c. If you have an assigned spot for the season, you must contact the market 24 hours in advance by calling or texting. If you are a no show and no call 3 times in a season, you will lose your spot for the season and will have to take whatever spot is assigned to you by the market manager