

Farmers Market

RULES AND REGULATIONS

2017

INTRODUCTION

The Steele Farmers Market has the goal to provide fresh foods and products, and direct marketing of farm products to the people of the local community and its surrounding areas. The following rules and guidelines are designed to make it as easy as possible for local producers to sell their products directly to the general public. The Market Advisory Committee manages the regular business operations of the market and welcomes your input. The Market Advisory Committee will conduct its day to day operations through a Market Manager designated by the committee. The Advisory Committee's meeting schedule may be obtained through the Market Manager. The Market Manager will be Brent Dunn and he may be reached via email at tbrentd@gmail.com or by phone at 205-249-7774. If the market manager is unable to be reached any member of the Market Advisory Committee (members of the Town Council) may also be contacted by calling the town hall at, Phone (256) 538-8145.

LOCATION

The Steele Farmers Market will, at present, be located at 3981 Pope Ave, Steele, AL (grocery store parking lot).

THE SELLING SEASON

The Market will be open each Saturday for retail sales from 8:00 AM -12:00 noon beginning June 3 and running through September 2, 2017. The market schedule may be extended depending on availability of seasonal produce.

PERMITS AND FEES

A growers' permit must be completed before selling at the market. Permits are available at no charge from the St Clair County Extension Office. The purpose of the certificate is to ensure that the products sold originate with the producer, his or her family, employees or partners. This allows the producer and the customer to be exempt from state and local taxes for goods sold. Any fees collected by the market are for the express purpose of promoting and operating the Farmers Market. This includes, but is not limited to, administrative expenses and advertising.

SPACE ASSIGNMENTS AND RESERVATION POLICIES

1. Vendors will be licensed to sell from only one vehicle and must occupy only one space as assigned by the Market Manager, unless an additional space has been approved and payment received. Maximum vehicle size is a 1-ton pickup truck or van unless prior arrangements have been made. Displays must be confined to the assigned space. If the vendor is using a trailer to display and sell goods, the towing vehicle may have to be disconnected and moved out of the area. If a vehicle or display is obstructing pedestrian traffic, or judged to be a safety hazard, it must be moved.
2. The Farmer/vendor must provide notification to the market manager of his/her participation each week by the previous Wednesday by 2:00 PM.
3. The market manager designates the vending location for all producers with or without vehicles and if the market manager judges it necessary may require a producer to relocate.

REGULATIONS

1. **Only producers may sell at the market.** A producer is defined as the person who grows or makes the product and may also include the producer's immediate family, partners, employees, or local cooperatives upon prior review. A partnership, for the purpose of this document, is defined as two or more individuals engaged together in the joint production of agricultural products. Any complaints filed with the Market Manager concerning production regulations will be investigated by the Market Advisory Committee and/or a representative of the Dept. of Agriculture's Farmers Market Authority. Should a complaint be found valid, it may result in expulsion from the market for the remainder of the selling season.

2. Arts and crafts are not permitted for sale at the market unless they have received prior approval by the Market Advisory Committee. If there is any question whatsoever about whether an item may be sold at the market, a brief written proposal should be submitted to the Market Advisory Committee for review.
3. Producers may sell their own farm and kitchen products including, but not limited to, fruits, vegetables, eggs, cut flowers, plants, cheese, cider, jams, jellies, relishes, honey, home canned goods and baked goods. Many items are subject to Health Department regulations. It is the responsibility of the producer to abide by these regulations. Contact the Health Department for inspection and approval. No cooking is permitted within the market area without prior approval by the Market Advisory Committee. It is the responsibility of each producer to abide by all state and federal regulations which govern the production, harvest, preparation, preservation, labeling, and safety of products offered for sale at the market. Vendors are liable for their own products. The Advisory Committee, Town of Steele, and/or the Dept. of Agriculture/Farmers Market Authority shall not be held accountable for the products offered by vendors. Product and liability insurance is the responsibility of the producer.
4. At the beginning of each market day, vendors will check in with the Market Manager. Vendors must arrive at the market for set up by 7:30 AM and be ready to do business when the market opens at 8:00 AM. When running late, contact the Market Manager. Each seller is expected to stop selling at 12:00 noon and have all produce, baked goods, boxes, containers, etc, loaded for removal by 1:00 PM . The Market Manager will have the authority to change the market hours on special occasions; however, notice must be given to the Market Advisory Committee beforehand.
5. PRICING must be displayed.
6. The sale of live animals is not allowed at the market. Pets of vendors are not allowed.
7. The sale of alcoholic beverages is not allowed at the market.
8. The use of electrical generators must be cleared with the Market Advisory Committee before usage.
9. Solicitation for political campaigns, products, services, or charitable contributions not specifically addressed as a market commodity is not permitted.
10. Vendors must be sixteen years of age or older. Younger children are welcome and encouraged to participate, but must be accompanied by an adult responsible for the child's conduct and safety.
11. Fraudulent, dishonest, or deceptive merchandising, disruptive behavior, or collusion to set prices among vendors may be grounds for forfeiture of the right to do business of any kind in the market for a length of time to be determined by the Market Advisory Committee.
12. All profane, abusive, discourteous, and boisterous language and/or conduct at or about the market area are prohibited. We are a tobacco-free market.
13. Vendors will be solely responsible at all times for the cleanliness within their vending area regardless of the origin of the debris in that location. Each vendor is required to leave the space clean at the end of the day.
14. In the event of rain, the Steele Farmers Market will open and remain open as long as conditions are safe.
15. The Market Manager and/or the Advisory Committee will have the full power to enforce all rules and regulations within the market area as authorized by the Advisory Committee. Failure by any vendor to comply with any of these rules and regulations can result in the forfeiture of the right to do business of any kind in the market for a length of time determined by the Advisory Committee and if need be, escorted by legal authority off premises.

16. Steele Farmers Market abides by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Administrative Code Chapter 80-7-1 Rules for Certification of State Farmers Markets and all growers are expected to abide by the same rules.

GUIDELINES:

It is recommended that vendors use safe, natural, and colorful displays. Be aware of tripping hazards in the walk area. It is best to raise all displays (especially food items) at least 24 inches from the ground. You will provide your own tents and tables.

It is recommended that each vendor have a sign identifying the name and location of the farm.

THE FARMERS MARKET ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STEELE TOWN COUNCIL) AND ITS DESIGNATED AGENTS SHALL IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE OPERATION OF THE CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET IN A FAIR AND EQUITABLE MANNER.

LIABILITY:

The Town of Steele, the Market Manager, and the Market Advisory Committee are not responsible for bodily injury, loss of equipment, personal losses, accidents, etc., which occur at the Farmers Market or on the premises. All liability is transferred to organizations using facility if such occurs. No liability is accepted by the Town of Steele, the market Manager, and the Market Advisory Committee.

CONTRACT:

I agree to use the Farmers Market with the directions, limitations, and liability warnings stated in this instrument. I certify that I have been informed by the Town of Steele as to proper use and care of the market for which application has been made. This is to certify that I have read this instrument and I understand it. I will be responsible for everything therein. If abuse occurs, I understand I will be denied use of the Farmers Market in the future.

Keep a copy of these rules and regulations in your file and return a copy to the Market Manager.

Signed: _____

Date:_____

Town of Steele City Council, Market Manager
Town of Steele Farmers Market