



RI DEM Farmers Market 2025 Policy

Vendor Prerequisites

- Before April 15, 2025, all vendors must complete and sign a RI DEM Farmers Market Application if they plan to attend a RI DEM Farmers Market. Attendance will be granted at the discretion of DEM staff.
- Prior to attending any market, all RI farm vendors must complete the RI DEM Division of Agriculture Produce Safety Program Enrollment form. This will begin the process of becoming RI GAP compliant which is the goal for all Produce Farms at all the RIDEM farmers markets.
- Vendors must comply with all appropriate RI Dept. of Health regulations (See URI Extension's Decision-Making Tool for RI Farmers Market Licensing) and demonstrate proof of such compliance to the RI DEM Division of Agriculture prior to attending any market.
- Vendors must provide a copy of product liability insurance to the RI DEM Division of Agriculture before participating in any farmers market and must be able to provide a copy upon request.
- The State farmers markets will have no more than 20% non-agriculture or non-food vendors.
- All scales used must be certified by an appropriate city or state official.
- All vendors must adhere to all Rhode Island laws regarding sales of produce and food.
- All vendors agree to allow inspection of their farm/business to ascertain the origin of all produce being sold. If origin is in question, the RI DEM Division of Agriculture will not allow sale of the product and the vendor may be expelled from the market.
- No food vendor that competes with a vendor already in the park or on State Property will be allowed.

Vendor Set-up

- All vendors must be set-up prior to opening of the farmers market. Vendors will not be allowed to drive through the farmers market after it is open to the public.
- All four legs of the tent must be firmly secured to the ground by utilizing stakes and weights as soon as the tent is up.
- All product prices must be displayed at or near the product. Produce prices must be conspicuous.
- There are no assigned spaces for vendors, unless specified by the RI DEM Division of Agriculture.
- When selecting a space, stay no more than 3ft apart from the previous vendor. Please note, spacing at Fishermen's will be closer due to the volume of vendors.

Vendor Sanitation

- Each vendor's site must be clear of trash before, during, and after attendance. All trash must be carried out.
- Vendors must have no bare hand contact while handling food.
- Vendors must not eat at their tables and must keep their tables clean throughout the day.
- No samples may be given to customers.
- All cuts or open wounds must be covered with proper bandage and single-use gloves.
- All vendor tables, equipment, tools, and containers must be able to be properly cleaned and sanitized.
- Vendors who are ill are prohibited from attending RI DEM Farmers Markets.

Vendor Product

- All food and non-food products being prepared for sale at the state-run farmers markets must be made by a Rhode Island business in Rhode Island.
- Farm/Business name and location (Town and State) from which the product originates must be displayed either on the product packaging or at the vendor's tent.
- All vendors must grow or make over 75% of the products offered for sale at the markets.
- All vendors selling organic produce must be certified by an approved state or third-party organic certifier.
- Product may not be cooked or cut without prior approval by RI Department of Health.
- All vendors are only allowed to sell safe, fresh quality products. NO produce that touches the ground may be sold (e.g., Dropped Produce).
- All washed produce must be washed using water that is of safe and adequate sanitary quality (i.e. Zero generic E. coli or Potable water) for its intended use such as for Raw Agriculture Commodities, Processed Foods, etc.
- Vendors must follow RI Department of Health regulations by keeping uncooked or raw animal products separate from Ready-to-Eat products (e.g., Produce, Baked Goods, Etc.)
- Farmers market vendors must follow proper food safety time and temperature controls.

Animal Requirements

- All vendors are not allowed to bring live animals for sale to the farmers market.
- All vendors must follow RI laws and regulation. (RI DEM Parks and Recreation rule for dogs: all dogs in the state of Rhode Island parks must have a leash no longer than 6ft.)
- All vendor-owned domestic animals are not allowed in the farmers market area except those that qualify as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Any service animal brought to the farmers market must be kept from contacting any vendor products and must have their feces controlled to minimize the risk of contamination of vendor products.

General Requirements

- All vendor receipts must be available for review upon request. If a vendor purchases product for sale to the public, the receipt must show the name and location of the farm/business where the product was grown/made. Failure to comply will result in expulsion from the market.
- Return Policy: Vendors must replace or return money for any damaged or undesirable products. Arguing with customers will not be tolerated.
- Alcoholic beverages are not allowed for consumption or sale at all Rhode Island farmers markets.
- No Smoking will be allowed by vendors or public at sale locations. (Smoking is allowed in state parks, but they must be 50ft away from the tents.)
- Vendors are not allowed to play music.
- Fighting or quarreling of any kind will not be permitted at the farmers markets and will lead to expulsion from the market.
- The RI DEM is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

RI DEM Division of Agriculture and the Division of Parks and Recreations reserve the right to refuse any vendor space if it is felt such vendor conflicts with the policy or good will of the farmers market. All decisions of the RI DEM Division of Agriculture and Division of Parks and Recreations are final. Failure to follow rules or argue with state personnel will lead to immediate expulsion from the farmers market.