



Covington Farmers Market: Christmas in July

"Where Community Grows Strong"

1143 Oak Street SE | Covington, Georgia 30014 | COVFarmersMarket@cityofcovington.org

The Covington Farmers Market was created after a 2021 Quality of Life survey's number one request for the community was a farmers' market and was established in 2022. Since its inception, the market team has focused on offering a safe and enjoyable space for local farmers, ranchers, and artisans to interact with their community and share their talents. It has also spawned other markets including an Ag Day Market, **Christmas in July market**, Fall Festival and Mistletoe Market. The below guidelines only apply to the Christmas in July market.

Please note that completing an application does not guarantee you a vendor spot. Vendors are selected based on the needs of the market. Vendors will be notified via email if they have been selected to participate.

MARKET LOCATION

The Christmas in July market is held on a Saturday in July on the downtown Covington Square from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

MARKET SETUP

Vendors will be emailed their set up time along with a numbered space and map.

- ❖ **Tables, chairs, tents and electricity are not provided.**
- ❖ If using a generator, it must be quiet, under 60 dB.
- ❖ 10x10 spaces are assigned the week prior to the market and space numbers are sent out the Friday (day before) before the market.
- ❖ Booths must have a fire extinguisher per the City of Covington Fire Marshal Vendor Regulations. The Fire Marshal will be onsite to check all booths.
- ❖ If using a tent, all 4 legs must be weighted down or you will not be allowed to use your tent. Acceptable weights include store bought tent weights, water-filled gallon jugs, cinder blocks, and other heavy-duty items that can be attached directly to each leg of the tent.
- ❖ Vendors will be assigned a space based on product balance and special requirements. We cannot guarantee accommodation of special requests.
- ❖ Vendors will be unable to park next to their booth space as cars must be moved out of the market area. Vendors will unload at their space and then must move their vehicles. If you have a truck and trailer, please follow the directions of market staff to ensure your vehicle/trailer are not blocking passage for other vendors.
- ❖ We can accommodate approximately 80 to 85 vendors.

PRODUCT & VENDOR GUIDELINES

Licensing, Product Types, Diversity of Product – Where Applicable

Vendors, relative to food products, shall have all health department, Georgia Department of Agriculture, USDA, and any other applicable federal, state, or local licenses required in order to sell items at the market. A copy of any pertinent license shall be emailed to the Covington Farmers Market (covfarmersmarket@cityofcovington.org) at the beginning of the market season. If you are not sure if your product requires certain licensing, please visit the Georgia Department of Agriculture's website <https://agr.georgia.gov/licensing> for more information.



- ❖ **REVISED COTTAGE FOOD ITEMS REQUIREMENTS AS OF JULY 1, 2025:** Cottage Food License (<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-licenses>): Per the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the below items are considered Cottage Foods: Baked goods such as loaf breads, rolls, biscuits and cakes, except those whose fillings require refrigeration or have high moisture content; jams, jellies, and preserves, except fruit butters when their commercial sterility may be affected by reduced sugar or pectin levels; uncut fruits and vegetables; dried fruits; dry herbs, seasonings, and mixtures; cereals, trail mixes, and granola; coated and uncoated nuts; vinegars and flavored vinegars; dill pickles; confections; fudge; dry soup mixes; roasted coffee beans; dry pasta; and popcorn, popcorn balls, and cotton candy.
- A cottage food operator or seller shall provide the following information to consumers of a cottage food item:
 - The business name, address, and telephone number of the cottage food operator. A cottage food operator or seller may elect, in lieu of providing an address, provide an identification number to be provided by the department upon written request.
 - The following statement in at least 10-point font: 'This product was produced at a residential property that is exempt from state inspection. This product may contain allergens.'
 - Such information shall be provided on a label affixed to the package, if the cottage food item is packaged; or on a label affixed to the container, if the cottage food item is offered for sale from a bulk container.
- ❖ Egg Candling License (<https://agr.georgia.gov/egg-candling-certification>): Georgians who want to produce and offer for sale shell eggs must obtain an egg candling certificate in order to sell their eggs at retail to the end consumer and submit said license to the Covington Farmers Market.
- ❖ Mobile Meat License (<https://agr.georgia.gov/mobile-meat-sales-licenses-retailers>): License must be submitted to Covington Farmers Market.
- ❖ Vendors selling agricultural and farm raised products receive priority in acceptance of applications.
- ❖ All agriculture products must be grown within the state of Georgia.
- ❖ All vendors are expected to clearly label all products as necessary in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal rules and regulations.
- ❖ Vendors will be selected based on customer demand, space availability, and maintaining a balance in product diversity. Other factors considered in the selection process: uniqueness and quality of product, professional display, clear signage, and previous history with the Market (attendance, rule compliance, interactions with customers, staff, and vendors).
- ❖ **The Covington Farmers Market/Christmas in July market reserves the right to limit the number of vendors selling duplicate items. However, there is no guarantee that any vendor will be an exclusive seller of any product. Exclusivity cannot be promised.**
- ❖ A limited number of concession vendors will be allowed at the market that sell food & beverage to consume at the market. These items must meet local regulations.
- ❖ Open flame cooking is not allowed.



HEALTH REGULATIONS

All vendors participating in the market shall comply with the sanitary rules and regulations of the County and State Health Departments. All food must be properly displayed, fresh and grown and/or prepared in accordance with all local, state and federal regulations.

SPACE RENTAL FEES

A vendor must pay a non-refundable fee of \$25 cash/check made out to Discover Covington and it is due one week prior to the day of the market. Payment may be mailed to the attention of the Covington Farmers Market, 1143 Oak Street SE, Covington, GA 30014 or dropped off at the Covington Welcome Center in person (same address for mailing) or at the Covington Farmers Market on market Saturdays prior to Christmas in July. Receipt of payment confirms your spot. If payment is not received by the deadline, your spot will be given to a vendor on the waiting list. The \$25 non-refundable fee covers the space only. It does not cover table, chair, tent or electricity.

LIABILITY

All authorized Vendors participating in the Covington Farmers Market's Christmas in July market are independent operators and shall be liable for any loss or damage to property, personal injury, including death, or any other injury or damage that may occur as a result of any act or omission of Vendor and/or Vendor's agents, representatives, employees and contractors. Vendor further agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Covington Farmers' Market, Discover Covington and City of Covington, its elected officials, officers, agents, employees and representatives, for any loss, costs, damages and other expenses including attorneys' fees and costs of litigation, incurred as a result of any act or omission of Vendor and/or Vendor's agents, representatives, employees and contractors, except to the extent said loss or damage is caused by a negligent act or omission of the Covington Farmers Market, Discover Covington, its officers, directors, agents, employees and representatives or the City of Covington, its elected officials, officers, agents, employees and representatives.

MARKET COMMUNICATION

Communication with market staff is essential to providing a well-balanced market. Farmers market communications are through email or other mode of communication as designated by the market staff. The email address is COVfarmersmarket@cityofcovington.org. Space assignments are emailed the day prior to the market. **If you are unable to attend, please inform our staff via email by Tuesday prior to the market.** Email is the primary form of communication from our staff. Please check your email including your Spam/Junk folder.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ❖ **Prohibited items at the market:** Drugs, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the farmers' market.
- ❖ **Inclement Weather:** If, on the evening prior to or on the day of the market, the weather prior to market opening is dangerous, the market will be closed and vendors will be notified via email. However, if the weather starts out uncondusive for the event but appears to be clearing up, we may push back the beginning of the market.
- ❖ **Campaigning:** Campaigning Is not allowed at the Covington Farmers Market/Christmas in July market.
- ❖ **Weather:** If the forecast predicts 60% chance of rain or higher throughout the day on the Thursday and/or Friday before, with or without high winds, the market on Saturday may be closed. Please check your emails and Facebook (@covingtonafarmersmarket & @cityofcovingtonga) for weather and cancellation updates.

