2026 Covington Farmers Market Guidelines/Policy

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 Arts in Heirloom Park Market, Ag Day Market, Christmas in July Market, Fall Festival, and Mistletoe Market. We strive to foster a positive environment for our vendors and our community including encouraging the support of each other as vendors.

Only food products that come directly from the earth or food items made by our vendors will be sold at the Covington Farmers Market. Non-edible products that are allowed are naturally made bath and body care products and plants/fresh cut flowers. **Arts and crafts or other non-edible items are not offered at the Covington Farmers 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.

If you are chosen as a vendor, missing a market day is excusable if the market staff is notified by **12 p.m. on Tuesday before the market.** **Two uninformed absences will result in dismissal from the market roster.** Multiple cancellations even with notification will result in dismissal from the market roster.

MARKET LOCATION

The standard Covington Farmers Market season will be held almost every Saturday from the middle of May to the end of August. The markets are held at Heirloom Park @ the Covington Welcome Center, located at 1143 Oak Street SE, Covington, GA 30014 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

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. Missing a market day is excusable if the market staff is notified by **12 p.m. on Tuesday before the market.** **Two uninformed absences will result in dismissal from the market roster.** Multiple cancellations with notification will result in dismissal from the market roster.

MARKET SETUP

Since the market is held in a residential area, vendors may not set up before 7:45 a.m. unless otherwise directed. Vendors may not set up without a Covington Farmers Market team member onsite.

- Tables, chairs, tents and electricity are not provided.
- If using a generator, it must be quiet, under 65 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.
- 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.
- Each week, vendors will be assigned a space based on product balance and special requirements. Space assignments may change as more seasonal products come in. **►Location of vendor spaces cannot be guaranteed.**
- Certain vendor spaces are in close proximity to parking spaces. You may only have one vehicle in these spaces. All other vehicles need to be moved to the Welcome Center's parking lots or other legal on-street parking that is not directly adjacent to the market. **►Parking near your vendor space cannot be guaranteed.**
- **Selling items at your booth that are not on the approved market criteria list is not allowed unless previously discussed with the market coordinator and requested on your application.** If allowed, these items are a complement to your farmers market main product; cannot be the main product or object on display; and may not represent any more than 10% of your product or take up more than 10% of your display. Staff reserves the right to request these items be removed from your booth if they're not previously approved or if your display's focus is on items that are not approved market items listed on the 2026 application.

SPACE RENTAL FEES

A vendor must pay $10 cash the day of the market, paid prior to departure. Markets not held at Heirloom Park may have a higher vendor fee.

PRODUCER ONLY MARKET POLICY

- All products must be Georgia grown, raised, created and/or made by the vendor. Exceptions are granted for coffee, seafood and as stipulated below. The Covington Farmers Market must approve the product for resell and only one product line may be resold per individual vendor and it must fit the market guidelines.
- Covington Farmers Market reserves the right to approve or deny any or all proposed resell products.
- Specialty food products will be accepted based on what is available from Georgia farmers and businesses.

LIABILITY

All authorized Vendors participating in the Covington Farmers 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.

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.

PRODUCT & VENDOR GUIDELINES

Licensing, Product Types, Diversity of Product

Vendors 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.

- Cottage Food License (https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-licenses): Our farmers market does not meet the criteria for farmers markets as listed in O.C.G.A. § 26-2-391. Therefore, these food items require a license by the Georgia Department of Agriculture: fresh produce, jams and jellies, honey, and baked goods that do not require temperature control. Per the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the below items are considered Cottage Foods:
  - Loaf Breads, Rolls, and Biscuits - Cakes - Pastries and Cookies - Candies and Confections - Fruit Pies - Jams, Jellies, and Preserves - Dried Fruits - Dry Herbs, Seasonings and Mixtures - Cereals, Trail Mixes, and Granola - Coated or Uncoated Nuts - Vinegar and Flavored Vinegar - Popcorn, Popcorn Balls, and Cotton Candy
- 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 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.
- Entertainment and educational booths shall be allowed with prior approval. These types of booths would not be allowed to sell items.
- A limited number of concession vendors will be allowed at the market that sale food & beverage to consume at the market.
- Open flame cooking is not allowed.
- Vendors are responsible for collecting and paying Georgia sales tax and for reporting earnings to the IRS.

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. 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 will be closed. Please check your emails for weather and cancellation updates.
- **Campaigning:** Campaigning Is not allowed at the Covington Farmers Market.
- **Selling items at your booth that are not on the approved market criteria list is not allowed unless previously discussed with the market coordinator and requested on your application.** Please see "Market Setup" section for complete explanation.

Please communicate any questions or cancellations via email at COVFarmersMarket@cityofcovington.org

Covington Farmers Market
Discover Covington Georgia