

Policies of the Swain Tailgate Farmers Market

The goal of the Swain County Farmers Market is to allow local farmers, gardeners, growers and crafters to earn extra income by selling locally produced farm products and crafts. In addition, the market aims to provide residents and visitors to Swain County an opportunity to buy fresh, quality, local produce and other farm goods at a fair price.

Sellers must reside and produce the items they sell within Swain and adjacent counties (Graham, EBCI, Jackson, Macon and Clay). Sellers must be the original producer (or family member) of all items being sold. No buying and reselling of produce or other products are allowed. Sellers must agree to Farmers Market policies and submit an application prior to any sales to:

Swain County Cooperative Extension Service
Attention Christy Bredenkamp
PO Box 2329, Bryson City, NC 28713.

The Swain Tailgate Farmers Market is primarily a farm market. The number of vendors selling fresh grown vegetables fruits, nuts, berries and herbs to nursery plants and high quality crafts will be maintained at a 60% to 40% ratio. Crafts must be approved by the market committee. If you wish to add an additional/different type of craft during the market season, you must have committee member approval before displaying at the farmers market.

There are no assigned vendor spots. Vendors may select a spot on a first come first serve basis.

As space becomes limited, priority will be given to citizens of Swain County followed by individuals residing in adjacent counties. In addition, priority of spots will be allotted to vendors in the following order: selling fresh edible products (includes meat and fish) followed by growers of nursery products and ending with crafters.

In 2015, the market will operate from 9:00 am until 1:00p.m. every Friday starting May 1st through October 30th and on **Tuesday evenings from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. starting June 16th through Tuesday September 15th.**

In 2015, the vendor fee will remain the same of \$25. You may pay your vendor fee in full upfront (preferred) or in installments of \$5 per market until you reach \$25. Please bring this to one of the market managers before you begin setting up your booth on market day. Please make checks payable to the Swain County Farmers Market.

In addition, due to the new tax laws, vendors will not be allowed to set-up nor sell their products until you have a certification number (see NC-BR form online), or a signed application (vendors of non-value added farm products). This information must be provided to the market manager (see application). Finally, by law, vendors must visibly display their number at their booths incase of potential inspection by the NCDOR. Market managers will be held accountable and potentially fined and/or serve jail time if records or not in compliance.

Products, which can be sold, include:

- Any vegetable grown by the seller from seeds, sets, or seedlings
- Any fruits, nuts, or berries grown by the seller from trees, bushes, or vines on

the seller's farm

- Any plant grown by the seller from seed, seedling, transplant, or cutting
- Cut or dried flowers grown by the seller
- Bulbs and seeds propagated by the seller
- Mushrooms grown by the seller
- Honey produced by the seller's bees
- Meat and Fish if grown locally and vendor has a meat handlers license
- Firewood cut by the seller from the sellers land
- Straw baled by the seller
- Wild fruits harvested by the seller in Swain and surrounding adjacent counties.
- Eggs produced by the seller's poultry if: 1) the carton is marked with grower's name and telephone number 2) carton states the date the eggs are collected 3) eggs are kept below 40 degrees F.
- Preserves, pickles, relishes, jam, and jellies made by the seller if prepared in an Inspected Kitchen with labeling that meets the State Health Code for Prepared Foods.*
- No "low-acid" canned foods such as green beans, corn, peas, carrots, etc. may be sold.
- Baked goods baked by the seller: Sale of baked goods such as breads, muffins, cakes, pies and cookies are permitted on a regular basis if prepared in an Inspected Kitchen.*
- One time baked sales: State Health Law permits "one-time sales" of baked foods such as breads, muffins, pies, cookies and cakes. These are permitted as a one-time sale.
- Craft Sales: This is primarily a farm market. Craft sales must be approved by the market committee. All crafters must reside and produce/make their own items for sale within Swain and surrounding adjacent counties.
- Additional craft products may be displayed and sold after committee approval.
- All food must meet state and local health regulations.
- All produce must be of top quality.

Each vendor is responsible for safety and cleaning up the area around their vehicle and space.

Sellers should not move their vehicles in or out of the market area during times when such movement would pose a danger to people in the shopping area.

The farmers market committee operates the market. The committee reserves the right to interpret the Market Rules and to modify them as needed for the market's operation. If questions arise about any produce sold, a member of the Farmers Market committee may visit the seller and farm involved.

* Contact one of NCDA's compliance officers at 919 733 7366 or visit their website: www.agr.state.nc.us/fooddrug/food/homebiz.htm to learn more on how to certify your kitchen. You may also prepare foods at the Stecoah Valley Food Ventures 828 479-3364 or the Blue Ridge Food Ventures in Asheville.

The Swain Tailgate Farmers Market is a collaborative effort between local vendors, Swain County Government, the Chamber of Commerce, Swain County Town and Tourism Authority and the N.C. Extension Service.