

## **Oscar G. Johnson Medical Center VA Farmers' Market Rules for Vendors and Products**

### **Oscar G. Johnson Medical Center VA Farmers' Market Mission**

This Farmers' market will strive to improve the health and wellbeing of the veterans and employees of VA hospital by providing access to locally grown produce.

- Provide local, fresh fruits and vegetables to Veterans, and Oscar G. Johnson Medical Center employees, in order to encourage their consumption and promote the health and wellbeing of Veterans, and employees.
- Support local farmers and agriculture by bringing fresh produce directly from the farmer to Veterans, and employees.

### **General Information**

#### **Hours of Operation**

The Farmers' Market will be open every Wednesday from 7:00 am – 1:00 pm from June 16, 2010 until September 30th 2010.

The hours of operation are subject to change. The market will operate rain or shine. If a market day falls on a National holiday, the market may be switched to another day. Vendors will be informed in advance of any changes of dates or cancellations.

#### **Arrival and Departure Time**

- ⇒ Vendors may begin setup at 6:00 am and must be ready to sell when the market opens at 7:00 am.
- ⇒ Vendors should bring enough of their product to sell for the entire day and may not leave the market until the market closes unless approval is granted.

#### **Cleaning up**

Before leaving the market, each vendor must clean up their designated area and remove all trash and waste.

#### **Attendance Policy**

Vendors submitting applications must commit to attending the entire market season.

**All vendors at the market must grow/produce 100% of the products he or she sells. The sale of any goods not grown or produced by the seller or the reselling of goods is prohibited. All vendors and products must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.**

### **Description of Selling Space**

- ⇒ The market will take place in the pavilion area on the back west side of the facility.
- ⇒ Each vendor will be provided an individual selling space.
- ⇒ Picnic tables will be available for sellers to use in the pavilion. Sellers must furnish their own signs.
- ⇒ Electricity and water are not available.
- ⇒ Whenever possible, space will be provided for a vehicle to be parked near the selling space, however, market managers may designate some spaces as "unload only" pending available space.
- ⇒ Vehicles, merchandise, and tables must be kept within each vendor's designated selling space.
- ⇒ Vendor areas shall be kept clean of excessive garbage and waste.
- ⇒ All boxes, crates, or bags of produce and other food products must be kept at least 6" off the ground surface

### **Fees and Insurance Requirements**

- ⇒ All applicants must carry commercial liability insurance for protection against damages in the event an injury occurs at the market or an injury is caused by the product(s) they sell at the market.

### **Signs, Prices and Product Authenticity**

- ⇒ Vendors must have a sign with the name and location of their establishment.
- ⇒ Vendors must have clearly marked signs for all products with the product name and variety and the price per unit. Bargaining with the consumer is not allowed.
- ⇒ It is the responsibility of the vendor to obtain and provide copies of all licenses and permits required to sell their products.
- ⇒ Farming practices must be fully and truthfully disclosed when customers inquire.
- ⇒ The use of the word organic is prohibited unless the product is certified. All products sold as organic must be prominently labeled as "Certified Organic" with the certifying agency name. For information on organic certification, see the website: [http://www.agr.state.mi.us/marketing/Mkt\\_Organic\\_Certification.html](http://www.agr.state.mi.us/marketing/Mkt_Organic_Certification.html)

### **Samples**

All samples of food items must meet the following criteria:

- ⇒ Samples must be kept in clean, covered containers
- ⇒ Toothpicks or disposable utensils must be used to distribute the samples
- ⇒ Clean, disposable plastic gloves must be used when cutting any samples
- ⇒ Cutting surfaces must be smooth, non-absorbent and easily cleanable
- ⇒ There must be a waste container near the sampling area for public use

### **Other General Rules**

- ⇒ No smoking is allowed; the VA is a smoke-free campus.
- ⇒ No alcohol or illegal substances are allowed in the vicinity of the market.
- ⇒ For everyone's health and safety, pets and other animals are not allowed at the market.

- ⇒ Please do not play any radios or televisions during market sales hours.
- ⇒ Running gasoline or diesel motors or engines, including vehicles, is not permitted.
- ⇒ Grills of any type are prohibited.
- ⇒ Distributing printed materials (other than information about your farm or product), petitions, or political or religious materials is not allowed.
- ⇒ Solicitation of tips is not permitted.
- ⇒ While participating in the market, vendors shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, physical ability, height, weight, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

### **Requirements for Specific Products**

All vendors are only allowed to sell items they have submitted on the application form unless approved for new items by the market manager. The items for sale must follow the specific regulations listed below.

#### **Prohibited Items**

The sale of all types of crafts, clothing, potentially hazardous foods, oil, and animals is prohibited.

#### **Food Safety**

In general, all vendors must follow the Food Safety policies as regulated by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health.

Potentially hazardous foods are not allowed at the market at this time. Potentially hazardous foods are items that must be held at specific temperatures because they can cause illness if the temperature of the item is between 41°F and 140°F. Examples of potentially hazardous foods not allowed at this market include: meat, poultry, fish, and shellfish, dairy products, cut melons and cooked vegetables.

Populations such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly are the most susceptible to illnesses stemming from a potentially hazardous food. As this market serves a large elderly population, vendors are not allowed to sell these items at this time.

#### **Requirements for Vegetable and Fruit Producers**

- ⇒ Fresh produce may be sold by the piece or by weight on a scale.
- ⇒ Produce must not be processed or adulterated, and must be of good quality.
- ⇒ Waxed, commercially packaged or wrapped, or labeled produce is not allowed.

### **Requirements for Plant and Floral Vendors**

- ⇒ The vendor shall have performed the propagation, germination, planting of cuttings or division work for all potted plants, trees or nursery starters that are sold.
- ⇒ All Nursery vendors will be required to show the Nursery License and Nursery Seller's
- ⇒ Permit required.
- ⇒ Flowers must be grown by the vendor, and must not be treated with any substance other than a clear lacquer spray. Dyes and paints are prohibited.

### **Requirements for Vinegars and Bulk Food Products**

- ⇒ Vinegar Products: One hundred percent (100%) of herbal, vegetable and other plant material in these items must be produced in the local area. You must have a Michigan License to sell these products.
- ⇒ Bulk Food Products: Bulk food products such as dried fruits and vegetables, dried herbs, etc. must be grown or gathered in the local area by the processor.

### **For more information:**

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