



Jasper Farmers' Market MARKET POLICIES AND OPERATING RULES

Sponsored & Organized by the Master Gardeners of

Pickens County and the Pickens County Extension Service

"JASPER FARMERS' MARKET" MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and encourage the development of local small-scale agriculture and to provide and administer a seasonal marketplace for local producers of agricultural products and hand-made arts & crafts.

Discrimination: All persons with or selling at the Market shall not discriminate against any individual in regard to matters of age, sex, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or any physical or mental disability.

Quality: The Market strives to provide a marketplace where fresh and wholesome products are sold. This freshness and wholesomeness of the products, as well as the expertise of the vendors is the backbone of the Market experience.

Market Location, Days and Hours: The "Jasper Farmers' Market" will be held every Saturday from 7:30-12:00. The Market will be held in the Park & Ride lot next to Lee Newton Park off Hwy. 53.

***Winter Market dates will be in & outside the Pickens Co. Extension Office.

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When the Park & Ride Lot is needed by another group for a special event, the Jasper Farmers' Market will usually relocate near the back gate of Lee Newton Park or Roper Park. The market committee will give advanced notice to vendors and customers via the local newspaper and Facebook.

The ringing of the bell by the market manager will signal the opening of the market. No one shall start selling before the opening time or after the closing time.

Pre-selecting and bagging for shoppers is not allowed.

Vendors:

- 1) Vendors shall be local farmers or gardeners, processors or agricultural commodities, artists or handcrafters who have produced the items offered for sale. ***A vendor cannot buy items from other sources to resell at the Jasper Farmers' Market.***
- 2) Nursery plants sold at the Market must be in the possession of and cared for by the vendor for at least 60 days prior to being sold at the Market.
- 3) Food processors are responsible for meeting any and all county, state and federal requirements. Products exempt from the Georgia Food Act*, which are not governed by additional State or Federal laws and regulations are jams, jellies, cakes, cookies, breads, pies, honey, and fresh produce for some examples. *See Attached

All products sold that are governed by specific State or Federal laws and regulations must comply with those agencies and the certificate or license required must be at your booth and on file with the market manager.

Meat Products – Governed by GA Meat Compliance Laws

Eggs – Governed by the Georgia Egg Law

Dairy Products – Governed by the GA Dairy Law

Organic Products – From Growers to Processors without an Organic Certification

Low Acid/Acidified Foods (canned vegetables, pickles, salsa, etc.) – completed Better Process Control School and licensed (meet all other requirements)

All processed products **must** be labeled with: the common name of the food, the name/address/phone number of the person who made the item and a list of ingredients with the common name of each ingredient.

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For assistance or questions concerning Food Sales Exemptions, please contact the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture-Consumer Protection Division at 404-656-3627.

- 4) Recognized civic groups are welcome to participate. They may resell items for fund raising purposes. **NO YARD SALE OR FLEA MARKET ITEMS ALLOWED.**
- 5) Other vendors that may not fit into any of the above mentioned categories are welcome, which may include authors or service providers, i.e. knife sharpening, face painting, entertainers, etc.

Vendor Selling Fee: \$3 is charged and will be collected by the Jasper Farmers' Market Manager each day (a vendor is any person/persons that take up a space in the market area).

Vendor Set-up and Registration: Vendors should arrive by at least 7:00 a.m. and complete their booth set-up by the opening time of 7:30. Each vendor must fill out a registration form at the time of the first visit to the market each year. The market manager will direct vendors to an available space. *If spaces are needed for special reasons, the market manager has the power to reserve a specific area.* If space becomes a factor, agricultural products are given top priority, due to the importance of their freshness and the quick spoilage of these products. Displaying your name or the name of your farm or business is recommended at your booth.

Propane Fuel, Electrical Power and Generators: If you are using propane as a fuel you must have a fire extinguisher at your booth. Small generators that DO NOT EXCEED 60 decibels will be allowed. Vendors with generators must locate them in a safe area and all electrical cords must be kept out of customer walking paths. If you have a generator, you must also have a small fire extinguisher. Vendors using a generator must park around the perimeter of the Market. Please notify the market manager in advance of bringing a generator. *If a generator becomes disruptive, the market manager and/or the Jasper Farmers' Committee has the right to deny use of said generator.*

Vendor Clean-Up: Due to the unavailability of a dumpster, all vendors **MUST** remove trash from their site at the closing of each selling day.

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Pricing: The pricing of goods is at the discretion of the individual vendor. Vegetables and products will be sold by the piece or by volume, not by the pound. (\$2 for a pumpkin or \$2 for a peck of beans). No scales unless certified by the GA Dept. of Agriculture. For more information, call the Georgia Department of Agriculture at 1-800-282-5852.

Livestock/Pets: Animals for sale at the Market must be contained at all times. All debris (bedding or manure) must be cleaned up by the close of the market. All pets must be leashed at all times, this is a city ordinance.

Safety: The safety of all is a top priority. Vendors arriving and departing the market selling area **MUST DRIVE VERY SLOWLY AND VERY CAREFULLY. NO SHOPPERS** in cars are allowed to enter the selling area to shop or to pick up market items. All items sold must be carried out – NOT picked up by driving in the selling area. The market manager will help anyone that needs assistance. **JUST ASK!!** The market's wagon is available for transporting the shopper's purchases to their vehicle. Please keep the shoppers safety in mind when you set up your booth.

Behavior: All vendors of the Jasper Farmers' Market will behave toward market customers, other market vendors and market volunteers in a professional manner which fosters a sense of market community and camaraderie, a spirit of cooperative involvement, and which portrays the market as a whole to the communities it serves. Abusive or threatening behavior will not be tolerated. Offenders will not be permitted to return to the Jasper Farmers' Market as a vendor.

Market Manager: He/she is empowered to answer questions, solve problems and amend market policies. He/she will inform the Market Committee of any necessary issues.

Enforcement of Market Policies: Vendor failure to adhere to any of these market policies set forth herein results in:

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First Offense – Verbal warning given. Second Offense – Written warning issued; expulsion from the Market may occur.

In case of unresolved disputes, the parties may appear before a grievance panel and discuss the complaint. The grievance panel will consist of four Jasper Farmers' Market Committee members and a representative of the Pickens County Extension Office.

The Jasper Farmers' Market Committee reserves the right to amend these Market Policies as in necessary, in order to guide the Market into successful operation.

The Jasper Farmers' Market Committee reserves the right to visit and inspect and farmer or crafter at their site of production to ensure that the vendor is adhering to all market policies.

Special requests for exceptions to the policies will be considered in order to better serve everyone involved with the Jasper Farmers' Market and the community.

The Master Gardeners of Pickens County and the Pickens County Extension Service assume no responsibility for any loss or injury encountered by anyone at the Jasper Farmers' Market.

The University of Georgia and the Ft. Valley State College, the US Dept. of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperation. The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

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