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KANSAS FARMERS' MARKETS

A Guide to Operating Farmers' Markets in Kansas

Interest in farmers' markets is growing across Kansas, with the number of these markets increasing more than four-fold in the past two decades. The growth of farmers' markets is closely tied to community efforts to support local producers (sources of fresh, local, and healthy foods) and grow local economies. The resources included in this guide provide direction to local communities seeking to support the development, growth, and success of local farmers' markets in Kansas.

Why is this information important?

Certain laws and policies may strengthen and encourage the operation of farmers' markets within a Kansas community, while others can burden or hinder the success of a market. As the needs of each farmers' market vary based on the community's needs, there is not a one-size-fits all approach to operating a farmers' market or implementing local ordinances impacting these markets. Understanding the regulatory environment of a community's market can help identify potential policy changes or empower a community to anticipate the needs of a new or existing market.



This fact sheet is part of a series funded by the Kansas Health Foundation to increase the availability of healthy foods in Kansas.



What is this?

This resource packet provides a guide for those interested in enhancing and supporting the growth and vitality of farmers' markets throughout Kansas. These resources can be used by Kansas communities, local governments, and state regulators to support and promote farmers' markets throughout Kansas. These resources include:

- **State Laws Impacting Farmers' Markets in Kansas:** A brief discussion of specific Kansas state laws and regulations that may impact specific aspects of a particular market or vendor;
- **Local Government Regulation of Farmers' Markets in Kansas:** A guide for communities and government bodies on local laws impacting farmers' markets;

- **Farmers' Market Vendor and Market Rules:** A guide of considerations available to individual farmers' markets in drafting their own internal rules; and
- **Organizational Structure of a Farmers' Market:** A discussion on the benefits of the Central Registration of Kansas Farmers' Markets, non-profit status in Kansas, and potential tax exemptions available to farmers' markets.

These resources can be used individually or collectively, depending on the needs of the specific community or farmers' market. Policy considerations - at the state and local level - may impact a farmers' market. As a result, these resources cross-reference each other to show the relationship between state, local, and market considerations as follows:

	STATE LAW MAY HAVE IMPLICATIONS	LOCAL LAW MAY HAVE IMPLICATIONS	MARKET RULES MAY HAVE IMPLICATIONS
Policy/Legal Area Identified — RELATED QUESTIONS			
■ Kansas state law, local law, and market rules may all impact the identified area.			
■ Market rules may impact the identified area.			
■ Local law and market rules may impact the identified area.			
■ Kansas state law may impact the identified area.			
■ Local law may impact the identified area.			
■ Local law and state law may impact the identified area.			
■ State law and and market rules may impact the identified area.			

Who should use this?

- Those involved in the operations of farmers' markets, including:
 - Market managers, farmers' market board members, and market vendors.
- Those involved in regulating farmers' markets, including:
 - City administrators, city/county employees, policy makers, and county managers.
- Community members and organizations interested in increasing access to healthy food or economic growth through farmers' markets.

How should this information be used?

This information provides a general guide, recognizing that each community will need to evaluate how best to support its community farmers' market. These resources can be used as a guide to navigate different considerations impacting a specific market. The resources often pose questions in order to provide a foundation to gather information about a community farmers' market and identify issues worth discussing and evaluating through conversations with local government, farmers' market management, or individual vendors.

The information is organized to indicate the potential impact local governance, state governance, and vendor and market rules may have on the specific issue or question identified.

What is the source of this information?

The information discussed in these resources was obtained from Kansas state law, local Kansas municipal ordinances, or existing vendor and market rules. Several municipal codes were reviewed and analyzed in regards to how the local law may impact a local farmers' market.

Further, several market and vendor rules were reviewed and analyzed in a similar manner.

What should happen next?

These resources provide a comprehensive overview of the regulatory and operational landscape of community farmers' markets in Kansas. Use this information to identify strengths and weaknesses of an individual market and determine appropriate next steps to develop new markets or strengthen and support existing markets.

- For questions regarding state law, please visit the websites of the [Kansas Department of Agriculture](#) and the [Kansas State Legislature](#).
- For questions regarding licensing, please contact the specific municipality's local planning and zoning department or local licensing administrator. For specific questions about a community's laws, please see the municipal code for that city or county.
- For questions regarding the development of vendor and market rules, please contact a market's manager or board.

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