

**CONNECTICUT FARM FRESH**  
**STANDARD REGULATIONS**  
**FOR**  
**CONNECTICUT FARMERS' MARKETS**  
  
**2008**

- I. **PURPOSE:** To bring together all new and existing farmers' markets so that by acting as one body on the whole we can accomplish the following:
  - 1. Increase marketing opportunities for members.
  - 2. Create a louder voice for members in determining new issues of Connecticut agriculture that will directly affect them.
  - 3. Continue coverage of liability insurance through Connecticut Farm Fresh.
  - 4. Provide guidelines to assist local market associations maintain the integrity of Connecticut Grown.
  
- II. **Method:** Each new farmers' market shall adopt these **Standard Regulations** and manage their markets according to said regulations. Upon adoption of these **Standard Regulations** payment of fees and signing of Letter of Agreement, a farmers' market will be recognized as certified by Connecticut Farm Fresh Cooperative (CFF) Association and entitled to all privileges available to such markets.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Standard Regulations**

- 1. Each local Association operating a farmers' market shall have an Executive Committee to oversee and enforce market regulations and to ensure that all member growers file a crop plan and individual insurance certificate with the local association. Local associations shall forward originals of all crop plans and individual insurance certificates to the Department of Agriculture along with applicable grower fees (\$80.00 per grower per market). CT Department of Agriculture will forward these to CFF.
  
- 2. If the grower decides to grow additional crops besides those listed on his original Crop Plan Application after it has been submitted, he must file an additional Crop Plan Application listing the original crops plus the crop to be added. This supplemental crop plan must be filed annually.

3. All fruits, vegetables and other farm products sold at Connecticut farmers' markets must be Connecticut grown by the grower himself. Exceptions will be based on local market conditions and approved by the local executive committee and by CFF. The Standard Exemption Application must be filed with CFF by the local association if they so vote. No one individual may submit this form (refer to #8 below).
4. Guaranteed point of origin: To guarantee that products sold at Connecticut farmers' markets are Connecticut grown, local associations must adhere to the following:
  1. Have all products sold at farmers' markets labeled "CT GROWN" (with reference to any exceptions approved under #2 above)
  2. Questionable labeling will be reported to the Department of Agriculture by the local market master
  3. Inspection will be made by Department of Agriculture inspectors when necessary
  4. Standard Grievance Form shall be used for complaints, a copy of which shall be filed with CFF
  5. CFF will maintain a file on growers found to be in violation, to be used by market masters to determine eligibility of growers' membership
  6. Suspension of market privileges for a grower found to be in violation will be determined by an established Grievance Committee which shall consist of one representative from each of the following: CFF, Department of Agriculture and Hartford Food System
  7. And finally, no grievance shall be considered valid unless it is felt a CFF BY-LAW or Standard Regulation has been violated
5. Plants, flowers, eggs, honey, fresh cider, crafts, and processed goods such as jams, jellies, baked goods, or other value added products may also be offered for sale, provided they are made and/or produced in Connecticut, and all local and Connecticut state licensing requirements are met by the applicant. (Copy of certification and/or license must be included with application). All livestock is subject to local market approval, must be raised by the farmer vendor, listed on the crop plan, must be properly penned and must meet all local and Connecticut state health requirements. All meat products sold at the market must meet State of Connecticut and federal inspection requirements. All vendors who fall into this category agree to on-site inspections.
6. All products sold at the markets shall be of good quality and picked fresh.

7. Food processors may not use more than one kitchen to prepare food for sale at farmers' markets. A food processor is defined as a seller of anything meant to be ingested by human beings, in any form, which has been significantly altered from its natural state by processes including, but not limited to, mixing with other ingredients, heating, and the biological activity of fungi and/or bacteria. The food processor agrees to sign a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the local market and CFF. The food processor agrees that, by signing this LOA, any infraction of the terms of the LOA is sufficient grounds for the removal of any relevant food products from sale at the farmers' market, and for the membership of the food processor to be canceled. Processed food may be sold by the food processor at farmers' markets only if the food processor has complied with all of the requirements of the LOA and any other requirements of the local markets association, CFF, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, and any other appropriate government agency. Membership of all food processors in both local associations and CFF will be for a one year period only. Renewal of membership will be at the discretion of CFF's Board of Directors, by majority vote, after recommendation from the local association.
8. Local associations will appoint market masters to manage the market(s) as the local association deems necessary. This person should be a person who plans to be present for the duration of the market season. In this person's absence an alternate shall be named. The association agrees that its markets shall at no time be without a market master. The **MARKET MASTER** shall at all times maintain copies of market members' crop plans and insurance certificates at the market site.
9. Each local association, by signing the CFF Letter of Agreement, agrees to adopt these basic "Standard Regulations" for their individual market as a basis to organize that market. Local market associations may add regulations as deemed necessary by the local Executive Committee, provided those additions are approved by the Board of Directors of CFF. These additions must be necessary to the working of the individual market.

10. To ensure adequate supply at markets where demands are greater than supplies, we recommend the local association file a Standard Exemption (as referred to in Item #3 above) allowing vendors to purchase additional “CONNECTICUT GROWN” produce as market supply demands and in agreement with local association rules. Local associations agree to accept recommendations on this matter from CFF. No one person may apply for this exemption, it must be applied for by the association.
11. In regard to #10 above, local associations shall maintain a specific list of “CT GROWN” products to be purchased. This will be accomplished only after CFF approval of Exemption Application.
12. Non-members of local associations may **NOT** sell at certified markets.
13. Local associations agree to hold a minimum of one meeting per year for the purpose of electing officers and spring market planning.
14. All vendors and their employees must maintain a non-smoking policy in the immediate selling area during selling times.