2024 FARM VENDOR HANDBOOK



Farm Vendor Handbook

With Market Information & Guidelines

Table of Contents

Part I		oduction	. •
		Mission, Contact	
	C	Market Seasons and Sites	
	D	Farmers' Market Advisory Council	
	E	Market Beet Newsletter	page 2
Part II	Who	o Can Sell, What Can Be Sold?	
	Α	Who Can Sell?	page 3
	В	What Can Be Sold?	pages 3–7
Part III	Hov	v the Market Works	pages 8–22
	Α	What Type of Vendor Are You?	page 8
	В	Vendor Point System	pages 8–9
	С	Market Season Specifics	pages 9–13
		April Market	page 9
		May-October Market	pages 10–11
		Tuesday Market	page 12
		November Market	page 13
		Holiday Market	page 13
	D	Gift Certificates and Market Bucks	pages 14–15
	Ε	General Information	pages 15–17
		Vendor Behavior	
		Expectations	
	F	Appendix	
	Vend	dor Resources	
		Map	
		Important Dates	
		Forms Needed to Sell at Market	
			1 0-



Part 1. Introduction

A. Bloomington Community Farmers' Market Mission

The Bloomington Community Farmers' Market mission is:

- To strengthen our local agriculture and food community by serving as a venue to nurture the direct, positive relationships between small farmers, food and beverage artisans and customers;
- To promote a safe and welcoming environment for all while enhancing and reflecting the City of Bloomington's diversity and encouraging multicultural awareness;
- To promote and improve food justice by implementing programs to increase access to Market products by low-income individuals; and
- To improve local food security and community sustainability by fostering a resilient food supply.

B. Market Contact Information

Clarence Boone, Market Coordinator

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department 401 N. Morton St., Suite 250 Bloomington, IN 47404 Office: (812) 349-3738

Email: farmersmarket@bloomington.in.gov

Sarah Mullin, Program Specialist

Office: (812) 349-3704

Email: mullins@bloomington.in.gov

Market day cell: (812) 327-7034

For more information on the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market including: special events, weekly entertainment and farm vendor contracts, email: farmersmarket@bloomington.in.gov or visit bloomington.in.gov/farmers-market.

C. Market Seasons and Sites

April Market—Open every Saturday in April from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Showers Common, 401 N. Morton St.

May–October Market—The peak season Market is open every Saturday May-September from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. and every Saturday in October from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. at Showers Common, 401 N. Morton St.

Tuesday Market—Open every Tuesday, June–September, from 4–7 p.m. at the Switchyard Park Pavilion, 1601 S. Rogers St.

November Market—The November Market is held the first four Saturdays in November from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Switchyard Park Pavilion, 1601 S. Rogers St.

Holiday Market—The Holiday Market takes place at Showers Common, 401 N. Morton St. on the last Saturday of November from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

D. Farmers' Market Advisory Council Welcomes You

The Farmers' Market Advisory Council consists of 11 members—six representing Market vendors, and five representing customers. The Council acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Park Commissioners and Park staff on policy matters relating to the Farmers' Market. Contact the Advisory Council members through contact information listed on the website at bloomington.in.gov/farmers-market. Members of the public are welcome to attend Advisory Council meetings. Meetings are usually held at 5:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. It is advisable to check the website prior to each month's meeting in case there has been a change.

E. Market Beet Newsletter

The Market Beet, the newsletter of the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market, keeps Market vendors informed of issues, ideas and events important to vending at the Market and is published periodically throughout the Market season. Vendors are added to the Market Beet mailing list once their Market vending contract is received. Please be sure to notify Market staff of any email address updates.

Part II. Who Can Sell, What Can Be Sold?

A. Who Can Sell?

Farm vendors who wish to sell at the Farmers' Market are required to submit a complete Farm Vendor Application and the accompanying \$20 fee to the Parks and Recreation office by Monday, February 19, 2024 if the vendor wants to reserve a space for the 2024 season. The information on these documents is public record. All vendors will be notified of either their accepted or denied application.

Farm vendors selected and approved to sell at Market must reside in Indiana and are expected to be consistently involved with and participate substantially in the production, including aspects like planting, cultivating, harvesting, and raising of goods permitted for sale at the Market. The ELIGIBILITY OF VENDORS section of the contract provides definitions to determine eligibility to vend. A primary mission of the Market is to support small farmers and these definitions provide clarification as to who is a small farmer.

B. What Can Be Sold?

The Bloomington Community Farmers' Market provides a venue for selected producers to sell what they raise directly to the public. The Market staff reserves the right to verify that all goods are produced in Indiana by the vendor. Vendors should contact the Market Coordinator (at Market or via contact information on p. 1) if there is reason to believe that a vendor is not producing the product they are selling at Market. Market staff will assess the situation and determine the best course of action. Vendors must display legible price markers for goods offered for sale. All displayed product must be for sale, unless the item is a part of display materials. Vendors may only display signs, information and/or items at their stands that promote the products they are selling or that are directly related to their business.

GOODS PERMITTED FOR SALE

The following categories of products are permitted for sale: 1. Unprocessed Farm Products, 2. Plants, 3. Value-Added Foods, 4. Home-Based Vendor Foods, 5. Crafted Non-Food Farm Products, 6. Crafts, 7. Grown/Raised and Prepared at Market by Vendor, 8. Pet Foods, and 9. Aquaculture Foods.

In addition to distinct requirements for each category of product, the following considerations apply to all products sold at Market:

1) All of the non-native plant species listed on the Indiana Invasive Species Council plant list (at www.bit.ly/invasivelist) and all of their hybrids, cultivars and varieties, and any material produced by them are not permitted for sale at Market. It is the vendor's responsibility to become familiar with this list.

Trees: Invasive species include Norway maple (Acer platanoides), sawtooth oak (Quercus acutissima), Siberian elm (Ulmus pumila), and Callery pear (Pyrus calleryana)*

*some of the many cultivars of Callery pear include Bradford pear, Aristocrat, Cleveland Select, and Chanticleer.

Shrubs: Invasive species include Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), autumn olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*), Russian olive (*Eleagnus angustifolia*), glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus or Rhamnus frangula*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), privet (*Ligustrum obtusifolium and L. vulgare*), burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*), and sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*).

Grasses: Invasive species include reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), and Chinese maiden grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*).

Flowers: Invasive species include crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*), dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica or Polygonum cuspidatum*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Vines: Invasive species include oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Japanese hops (*Humulus japonica*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*), and moneywort or creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*).

- 2) Product that is collected on public or private lands will be closely monitored. If collecting is done on public land, vendor must obtain all necessary permits. Collecting shall be done in a way that does not diminish the propagation of the resource. No threatened or endangered plants are permitted for sale.
- 3) Vendors wishing to sell cultivated fruits, vegetables or nuts from perennial plants acquired at or near maturity that require ongoing care, must seek permission from the Market Coordinator.
- 4) Citations to guidelines regulated by entities other than the City of Bloomington are for reference purposes only and do not relieve the vendor from knowing the underlying provisions.

1. Unprocessed Farm Products

Unprocessed Farm Products are farm products that are not processed beyond harvesting, cleaning, drying and packaging. These products include: whole, uncut fruits and vegetables, herbs, nuts, cut flowers, seeds, whole grains, cultured mushrooms, wild collected mushrooms,* eggs,** and non-food animal products and plant material.***

Sprouts (generally defined as seeds germinated in water and both seed and sprout are eaten) and pokeweed, or other potentially hazardous, unprocessed farm products, are not permitted for sale. Microgreens and shoots (generally defined as young plants raised in a growing medium with the seed not being intended for consumption) are permitted for sale.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxed shares, which are sold in advance to subscribers, may be sold and/or distributed from vendor stands, but may only contain Market-eligible items produced by that vendor.

*Only the following wild-collected mushrooms are eligible for sale: Black Morel (Morchella angusticeps), Yellow, Grey, or Sponge Morel (Morchella esculentoides), Oyster (Pleurotus ostreatus), Smooth Chanterelle (Cantharellus lateritius), Common Chanterelle (Cantharellus cibarius), Peach Chanterelle (Cantharellus persicinus), Chicken of the Woods (Laetiporus sulphureus, Laetiporus cincinnatus), Hen of the Woods (Grifola frondosa), Hedgehog (Hydnum repandum), Lion's Mane (Herinum erinaceus), Turkey Tail (Trametes versicolor), and Reishi (Ganoderma lucidum). In order to sell these mushrooms, vendor must give prior notice to the Market Coordinator. Mushrooms must be inspected prior to sale by a qualified inspector chosen by the City of Bloomington at a cost to the vendor of \$5 per day on which mushrooms are inspected.

**If selling eggs, they must be kept at 41 degrees or less, and used egg cartons may only be used if relabeled with vendor's name, address, pack date, expiration date and grade. Eggs on display at temperatures above 41 degrees must be labeled "For Display Only" and may not be sold. If selling chicken eggs, vendor must obtain a current egg vendor license issued by the State Egg Board. Contact information is on p. 22 in the "Vendor Resources" section. If selling shell eggs, not from chickens, vendor must obtain a Seasonal Food Vending Permit and/or Temporary Food Vending Permit from the Monroe County Health Department and have an initialed Shell Egg Exhibit attached to the Contract on file. This exhibit is available on our website at bloomington.in.gov/farmers-market/selling.

***If selling compost, the vendor must comply with the National Organic Program standards for composting plant and animal materials found here: www.bit.ly/NOPcompost. The vendor must keep thorough records of all components and processes.

2. Plants

Plants (potted, in soil blocks, and bare-root) are permitted for sale with the following considerations:

- 1) For Annual Plants and Herb Plants (Annuals/Perennials):
- Must be grown by the vendor from seeds, cuttings or plugs.
- Purchased plant materials, other than seeds, must be grown on the vendor's premises for at least six weeks before they can be offered for sale at Market.
- 2) For Nursery Stock: Woody Stock, Houseplants and Perennials:
- Must be grown by the vendor from purchased seeds, seedlings, cuttings or stock, or from seeds, transplants or cuttings raised or taken by the vendor.
- Purchased plant materials, other than seeds, must be grown on the vendor's premises for at least eight weeks before they can be offered for sale at Market.
- 3) All containers must be utilitarian and not decorative.
- 4) Vendors selling any perennial plants should contact the Department of Natural Resources, Entomology Division to determine licensing and inspection needs. Contact information is on p. 22 in the "Vendor Resources" section.

3. Value-Added Foods

Value-Added Foods are processed farm products made from raw ingredients in a licensed kitchen by the Vendor or, if required by law, at a processing facility. Value-Added Foods contain a significant portion of vendor grown/raised/collected product. Vendor must have an initialed Value-Added Foods Exhibit attached to the Contract on file and provide documentation of the all necessary permits, licenses, etc. Contact information for the Monroe County Health Department is on p. 22 in the "Vendor Resources" section.

The following categories of Value-Added Foods are permitted for sale at the Market: 1. Standard Value-Added Foods (products like salsas, relishes, ciders, jams, jellies, etc.), 2. Manufactured Grade Dairy Products (products like cheese), 3. Grade A Milk and/or Milk Products (products like milk and yogurt), 4. Fresh/Frozen/Preserved Beef, Pork, Rabbit, Goat, Poultry, Lamb or Other Meats, and 5. Wine. Specific requirements for Value-Added Foods are detailed in the Value-Added Foods Exhibit. This exhibit is available on the Market website at bloomington.in.gov/farmers-market/selling.

4. Home-Based Vendor Foods

Home-Based Vendor Foods include some non-potentially hazardous processed farm products not requiring any permits. These products include jams and jellies (canned or frozen) made from acidic fruits; frozen/dehydrated fruits, vegetables and herbs; dried cultivated mushrooms; vinegar; maple syrup; honey; sorghum; ground grains; spices; fermented foods; frozen poultry; and rabbit. No baked goods are permitted for sale by farm vendors as Home-Based Vendor Foods.

Guidelines for Home-Based Vendor Foods

- 100% of product (with the exception of jams and jellies and fermented foods) must be vendor grown/raised/collected.
- All processing and packaging must be done by the vendor and have proper labeling.
- Vendors selling home-based vendor items are required to sign a Home-Based Vendor Foods
 Exhibit attached to the contract, which specifies the regulatory requirements. This Exhibit is
 available on the Market website at bloomington.in.gov/farmers-market/selling.
- Pursuant to a new law that affects Home-Based Vendors, Indiana House Bill 1149 was passed
 and took effect July 1, 2022. As a part of this new legislation, all HBV's are now required to take
 a recognized food safety training and must provide a copy of the certificate to the local health
 department in the county where the HBV's residence is located. One of these recognized
 trainings is the ServSafe Food Handler course offered by the National Restaurant Association.
 The certification costs between \$7 and \$15 plus the time to take the course online.
 The certificate is good for 3 years depending on where it is completed.

For more information and to see if this new law affects your business, visit: https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/files/IDOH-HEA-1149-Guidance-Document.pdf For information on House Bill 1149: https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2022/bills/house/1149/details

5. Crafted Non-Food Farm Products

Crafted non-food farm products are agricultural products made with vendor-grown, raised and/or gathered products that are crafted. Five categories of items are permitted for sale and are detailed below:

- 1) Beeswax/beeswax candles made solely from wax from vendor apiaries and, in the case of candles, a wick.
- 2) Fleece, roving, and yarn made solely from fiber from vendor-raised livestock.
- 3) Bar soap, provided any plant material used in the crafting of the soap is vendor grown/collected (with the exception of plant-based oils such as olive oil or essential oils) and provided the other ingredients are grown/raised by vendor constitute at least 20% of soap by weight (e.g. milk, honey, other emollients). Soap must be labeled with the contact information for the farm, ingredients in order by weight prior to any process of production, and the weight of the bar. A rope or string may be added to bar soap.
- 4) Worm casting "tea" made from castings from worms and other farm products raised by the vendor.
- 5) Potting soil and soil amendments containing not less than 70% vendor-produced compost and which has ingredients listed by volume on the packaging.

6. Crafts

Registered crafts are permitted for sale in April, May, October and November. Vendors who sold at eight Markets in 2023 during the months of June through September are eligible to sell registered crafts during the months of April and May, 2024. Vendors who sell at eight Markets in 2024 during the months of June through September will be eligible to sell registered crafts during the months of October and November, 2024. All crafts must be registered and meet the following craft guidelines.

Craft Registration and Guidelines

- Prior to selling a craft, vendors must bring representative samples of each different type of
 craft item to the Market Coordinator. Items will be reviewed for compliance with the Craft
 Guidelines at that time. In most cases, the Market Coordinator will confirm the eligibility of an
 item on the day it is submitted, but consideration may extend for up to one week.
- All items must be original and handcrafted by the primary vendor, his/her immediate family (as defined in the vendor contract) or under the direction of the primary vendor.
- Items must be safe, have a reasonable life expectancy and exhibit quality craftsmanship.
- Balms and salves made from beeswax are permitted as long as the beeswax is vendor produced (plant-based oils and essential oils are not required to be vendor produced).
- In items made from or including minimally processed plant materials (e.g. flowers, herbs, vines, gourds, etc.), the plants must be vendor grown/collected.
- Items may not be made from commercial kits or plans, be made from molds not created by the vendor, contain a commercially made piece central to the design (unless it has been upcycled) or be made in a production facility.
- Items on display must be registered.

7. Grown/Raised and Prepared at Market by Vendor

Preparing food at Market is permitted following the guidelines below.

- Preparation of food at Market requires prior approval (based on desirability of food item and safety
 of setup) from Market staff. A limited number of farm vendors will be given permission to prepare
 foods at Market.
- All foods prepared at Market must meet the guidelines specified for Home-Based Foods (see p. 5) except requiring that foods be prepared in a licensed facility.

8. Pet Foods

Pet Foods are farm products made from raw ingredients, almost all of which are produced by the vendor. These products include dairy products and fresh/frozen/preserved meat or other processed agricultural or livestock products. Vendors selling pet foods are required to sign a Pet Foods Exhibit attached to the contract, which specifies the regulatory requirements. This Exhibit is available on the Market website at bloomington.in.gov/farmers-market/selling.

9. Aquaculture Foods

Vendors selling Aquaculture Foods, including fish and shrimp, are required to sign an Aquaculture Foods Exhibit attached to the contract, which specifies the regulatory requirements. This Exhibit is available on the Market website at bloomington.in.gov/farmers-market/selling.

Part III. How the Market Works

A. What Type of Vendor Are You?

There are two categories of Farm Vendors: Reserved Space Vendors and Day Space Vendors.

Reserved Space Vendors are vendors who claim the same space for the entire Market season by paying a fee in advance. Each vendor is limited to one reserved space unless otherwise assigned. No portion of the prepaid fee for the reserved space will be refunded after the beginning of the Market season unless the Market is suspended, in which case vendors will be reimbursed for their reserved space fee, prorated based on the number of days the Market is not open. Vendors who cancel their space reservations prior to the beginning of the season will be charged a \$20 administrative fee. If, for reasons outside the City's control, reserved spaces become unavailable on a particular Market day, the Market Coordinator will attempt to reassign those spaces.

Day Space Vendors rent spaces available each Market day (see "Market Season Specifics" on pp. 9–14 for guidelines in utilizing these spaces). Payment is due on the day of reservation.

Relocation of Vendors: Notwithstanding the vendor point system, the City retains the right at its sole discretion to relocate vendors for reasons of public safety and/or to protect the efficient physical functioning of the Market.

B. Vendor Point System

A point system is used to reward vendors who have participated in the Market the longest and most consistently. The system is based on the number of seasons of participation and the number of days of attendance. The same system is used for the Saturday Market and Tuesday Market; however, points for the four Markets (April, May—October, November, and Tuesday) are kept separate. Vendors participating in the Holiday Market will earn one point for each year's participation. Each Market day, a vendor must occupy and be prepared to sell from a vending space for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours during Market hours to be counted in attendance and be eligible to earn points.

Vending spaces are reserved prior to the season based on the following system: vendors with the most points select their spaces first. Space reservations will be made using the total number of points earned at the end of the previous season.

Points are earned and controlled by the primary vendor. Market attendance points are calculated as follows:

- 1. Two points per season for vending during a given season will be awarded to vendors who have participated in the Market in any of the three "recent seasons" (either the current season and the two prior seasons if Market is underway, or the three previous seasons if the Market has not yet opened for the year).
- 2. Also, for Market seasons beginning in 1983 up to the "recent seasons," a vendor receives one point for each season she/he sold at Market.
- 3. Additionally, vendors who participated in the Market during any of the three "recent seasons" will receive 0.2 points for each day the vendor sold during those seasons. For the Saturday Market, May–October, a maximum of 4.4 points can be earned (22 days) for daily attendance.

In the event the primary vendor no longer vends at Market, points may be given to additional vendors for the years they were on the contract or in the case of "immediate family" for the years they were "immediate family" as defined in the farm vendor contract. In the event that the contracted vendors develop a spin-off vendor, points accumulated by the primary vendor in that space will either have to be divided among the contracted vendors, or the primary vendor will receive all the points. Vendors who have not sold at Market in more than five years will lose all points.

The vendor point system continues to be renewed annually and may be subject to adjustments as deemed warranted and/or necessary.

C. Market Season Specifics

APRIL MARKET

The Market runs each Saturday in April from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Reservations for April vending will be completed by staff based on vendor top choices.

For information regarding coming and going, please refer to ENTERING AND EXITING THE MARKET in May—October information on p. 10.

Stand Information for the April Market

- The intention is to use the B, C and D shelters (see map on p. 23) as well as any small vending spaces for the reserved spaces.
- Space assignments will be based on April Market points earned.
- Vendor must occupy a reserved space by 7:30 a.m. on Market day or give up all rights to the space for that day.
- Day spaces will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. A map indicating which spaces are unreserved in April will be available in advance of the first Market and from the Market Coordinator.
- Unused, reserved spaces will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, as well. Vendors wishing to access these spaces need to contact the Market Coordinator. The Market Coordinator will notify them of the availability of those spaces at 7:30 a.m.
- After 8 a.m., vendors may utilize, for price of booth fee, the adjacent, unused spaces.
- Large vending spaces are approx. 9' × 26' in size and small vending spaces are approx. 9' × 8' in size. Due to space constraints, 10' x 10' size tents are not suitable at the Farmers Market. 9' x 9' tents fit large spaces and 8' x 8' tents fit small spaces. Vendors' setup must be within the boundaries of their space, with the exception of flared tent legs (the tent canopy cannot exceed the dimensions of the space).

Rental Fees for the April Market

Vending Space	Reserved Price	Day Price	*Senior price applies only if all vendors and stand assisstants on contract are 60
Large Space	\$96	\$24	years of age or older by the date of the
Large Senior*/ Youth** Space	\$72	\$18	reservation meeting.
Small Space	\$64	\$16	**Youth price applies only if all vendors on contract are 16 years of age or
Small Senior*/ Youth** Space	\$52	\$13	younger.

MAY THROUGH OCTOBER—PEAK SEASON MARKET

The peak market runs every Saturday, May–October. Hours: May–September—8 a.m. until 1 p.m. and October—9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Reservations for May–October reserved vending spaces are made at the Space Reservation Meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

Reserved space vendors are required to notify the Market Coordinator in person, by email—farmersmarket@bloomington.in.gov—or by phone—(812) 349-3738—before 5 p.m. Friday, or via the Market cell phone—(812) 327-7034—prior to 6:30 a.m. Saturday, if they will not be utilizing their space on a given Market day. If vendor does not notify the Market Coordinator in advance of an absence, it will be assumed vendor is not attending Market until notification of his/her attendance is received, and his/her space may in subsequent weeks be utilized as a day space.

Entering and Exiting the Market

In April–September, in order to alleviate congestion in the Market lot, trailers over 12' in length are required to either be parked in a vendor space or unloaded and removed from the Market by 7 a.m.

Early Vehicle Exit Spaces: Sixteen vending spaces have been designated "Early Vehicle Exit" spaces. Only vendors occupying the "Early Vehicle Exit" spaces are allowed to exit the Market site, with a Market staff escort, in motorized vehicles between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (April—September) and between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (October). The Market Coordinator will determine whether or not it is safe to leave.

Procedures for exiting the Market at 1 p.m.: The Market Coordinator will indicate when vehicle traffic is permitted only for vendors removing their vehicles from the Market.

The Market Coordinator will indicate to waiting vendors when space allows for vehicles to enter the Market (vehicles only will be permitted first, followed by vehicles with trailers in tow).

In November, all vendor vehicle traffic is permitted upon the ringing of the bell at 1 p.m.

Procedures for entering and exiting the Market may be modified if conditions warrant.

Stand Information for the May-October Market

- Reservations for vending spaces are made in advance of the opening of the Market season at the Space Reservation Meeting. Each vendor may only reserve one vending space unless otherwise assigned.
- Day spaces are available on a weekly basis.
- Vendors must occupy a day (if already assigned) or reserved space by 7:30 a.m. in May–September and 8:30 a.m. in October, or give up all rights to the space for that day.
- Vehicles not parked within a large vending space need to be removed from the lot by 7:30 a.m. in May–September and 8:30 a.m. in October, unless the vendor is accessing an unused, reserved vending space that was reassigned at 7:30 a.m. or 8:30 a.m., respectively.
- Large vending spaces are approx. 9' × 26' in size and small vending spaces are approx. 9' × 8' in size. 10' x 10' tents are not permitted and do not fit in the vending spaces. Vendors' setup must be within the boundaries of their space, with the exception of flared tent legs (the tent canopy cannot exceed the dimensions of the space).

Accessing Day Spaces in MAY-SEPTEMBER

Vendors interested in participating in the initial distribution of these spaces should park their vehicles outside the Market and report to the Market manager at the Market shed by 7 a.m. Day vendors **may not** set up/drop off items in a space prior to the lottery.

Vendors who do not have a space will select one space first, followed by vendors interested in accessing a second space, and then vendors interested in more than two spaces. Space assignments in the 7 a.m. pool will be based on the number of points earned by the vendor as of the space reservation meeting for the 2024 season.

Vendors interested in accessing day spaces, arriving after 7 a.m., should contact the Market Coordinator. Once all vendors in the 7 a.m. pool have received their spaces, they will be assigned to vendors arriving after 7 a.m. in order of arrival.

In the event all designated spaces are occupied, the Market manager may assign "overflow" small vending spaces in locations that do not interfere with customer walkways, current vendor spaces and emergency access. These spaces may be smaller than 9' × 8' and can only be utilized by vendors occupying a single stand. Every effort will be made to find space for all interested vendors.

Accessing Day Spaces in OCTOBER

Vendors interested in participating in the initial distribution of these spaces should park their vehicles outside the Market and report to the Market Coordinator at the Market shed by 8 a.m.

Vendors who do not have a space will select one space first, followed by vendors interested in accessing additional spaces, with no limit on the number of spaces they may select. Space assignments in the 8 a.m. pool will be based on the number of points earned by the vendor as of the 2024 Space Reservation Meeting.

Vendors interested in accessing day spaces, arriving after 8 a.m., should contact the Market Coordinator. Once all vendors in the 8 a.m. pool have made their space selections, spaces will be assigned to vendors arriving after 8 a.m. in order of arrival, with no limit to the number of spaces they may select.

Rental Fees for the May-October Market

Vending Space	Reserved Price	Day Price	*Senior price applies only if all
Large Space	\$624	\$24	vendors and stand assistants on contract are 60 years of age or
Large Senior*/Youth** Space	\$468	\$18	older by the date of the space reservation meeting.
Small Space	\$416	\$16	**Youth price applies only if all
Small Senior*/Youth** Space	\$338	\$13	vendors on contract are 16 years of age or younger.

TUESDAY MARKET

The Tuesday Market runs each Tuesday, June—September from 4 p.m.—7 p.m. at Switchyard Park on the brick plaza north of the Pavilion, 1601 S. Rogers St.

Reserved space vendors are required to notify the Market Coordinator in person, by email—farmersmarket@bloomington.in.gov—or by phone—(812) 349-3738 before 5 p.m. Monday, or via the Market cell phone—(812) 327-7034—prior to 3 p.m. Tuesday, if they will not be utilizing their space on a given Market day. If vendor does not notify the Market manager in advance of an absence, it will be assumed vendor is not attending Market until notification of his/her attendance is received, and his/her space may in subsequent weeks be utilized as a day space.

Entering and Exiting the Market

At 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., the Market Coordinator will coordinate entry to and exit from the Market. No vehicle traffic will be permitted during Market hours (4–7 p.m.)

Stand Information for the Tuesday Market

- Reservations for reserved vending spaces will be assigned based on the point system. Each vendor is limited to one reserved 10' x 10' vending space, unless otherwise assigned.
- Day vending spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Vendors' setup must be within the boundaries of their space, although vendors' tents or other shelters may extend in front of their space(s), with manager discretion to allow for adequate shading of their product.
- Vendors may not begin setting up until 3 p.m. Vendors must occupy a reserved space by 3:30 p.m. on Market day or give up all rights to the space for that day.

Vendor Parking for the Tuesday Market

There is ample parking available for vendors in the immediate vicinity of the Market.

Rental Fees for the Tuesday Market

Vending Space	Reserved Price	Day Price	*Senior price applies only if all vendors and stand assistants on contract are 60 years of age or older by the date of the space reservation meeting. **Youth price applies only if all vendors on contract are 16 years of age or younger.	
10' x 10' Space	\$204	\$12		
10' x 10' Senior*/Youth** Space	\$170	\$10		

NOVEMBER MARKET

The November Market is held the **first four Saturdays in November** from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Switchyard Park Pavilion, 1601 S. Rogers St. To reserve a space, reservation forms need to be submitted by the last Market day in September. Space Reservation Forms for the November Market are available from the Market Coordinator.

Entering and Exiting the Market

At 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., the Market Coordinator will coordinate entry to and exit from the Market. The Market Coordinator will coordinate entry to and exit from the market. No vehicle traffic permitted between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Rental Fees for the November Market

Vending Space	Reserved Price	Day Price	*Senior price applies only if all vendors and stand assisstants on contract are 60
Indoor Space	\$96	\$24	years of age or older by the date of the reservation meeting. **Youth price applies only if all vendors on contract are 16 years of age or younger.

HOLIDAY MARKET

The Holiday Market is the **last Saturday in November** from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. To reserve a space, space reservation forms need to be submitted by the last Market date in September. There will be no day spaces available. Space Reservation Forms for the Holiday Market are available from the Market Coordinator.

Entering and Exiting the Market

Proceeding to and from the Holiday Market is the same as during the May–October Market (see p. 10), except that vendors must occupy their space by 9:30 a.m. and may not exit the Market until 3 p.m.

Stand Information for the Holiday Market

- The intention is to use the large spaces in the A, B, C, and D shelters (see map on p. 23.) The small vending spaces in the middle of the Market may be available for reservation as well (please note small vending space preferences in the special request section of the Space Reservation Form). The setup may be adjusted depending on the number of Space Reservation Forms received.
- Space assignments will be based on Holiday Market points earned (with previous May–October points used as a tie breaker) and space availability.

Additional Information Specific to Selling at the Holiday Market

Vendors earn one point for each year in attendance at the Holiday Market.

Rental Fees for the Holiday Market

Cost is \$30 per farm vending space.

D. Gift Certificates and Market Bucks

Gift Certificates

Market customers can purchase Market Gift Certificates, vouchers which are valued at \$5 or \$20 each, good toward the purchase of products at the Market. Any product offered by participating vendors is eligible. Customers can purchase gift certificates in the atrium in City Hall, or in the Parks and Recreation office in City Hall, Monday–Friday from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Gift certificates are good for one year from the date of issue. **Vendors may give cash change for gift certificate purchases.**

Market Bucks—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Market Bucks improve access among low-income residents to fresh, local food while increasing the customer base for Market vendors. During Saturday Market hours, in the City Hall atrium, and during Tuesday Market hours, at the Market Information Table, food assistance recipients can exchange the electronic SNAP benefits on their Hoosiers Works cards for Market Bucks (vouchers valued at \$3 each). The Market Bucks can be spent with participating farmers and prepared food vendors for allowable foods.

Market Bucks Allowable and Non-allowable Foods

Allowed foods include fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, eggs, dairy products, bread and other baked goods, cereal and edible grains, packaged foods not intended for on-site consumption, and plants or seeds which will produce food. Packaged coffee and tea may be purchased, but not brewed coffee or tea prepared for on-site consumption. **Please note that this is a federal program and adherence to rules by all vendors is extremely important.**

Disallowed products include foods sold hot or prepared for on-site consumption, wine, any hot or cold prepared beverages, any food purchased with the intent of reselling and any non-food items.

Accepting Market Bucks at Your Booth

Once the customer has made his/her selection, the vendor will verify the eligibility of the selected products, tally the prices and inform the purchaser of the total. In the event that the purchase does not equal an amount divisible by three, the customer may elect to pay the additional amount, or may add or subtract items in order to equal a three dollar increment. **No money may be given as change or exchanged for Market Bucks.**

Gift Certificates and Market Bucks Participation

Vendors are encouraged to participate in the Gift Certificate Program/SNAP (GCP/SNAP) offered by the Market. Vendors who have no SNAP-eligible products, and therefore cannot accept Market Bucks, can still participate in the Gift Certificate Program by following the same steps listed below.

In order to participate, all vendors must: 1) Indicate on the Market application their intention to participate, 2) fill out and return, or have on file, a W-9 form and a City of Bloomington Vendor EFT form, included in the Training Guide, which will be provided, and 3) read the GCP/SNAP Farmer/Food and Beverage Artisan Vendor Training Guide.

Redeeming Gift Certificates and Market Bucks for Payment

Vouchers may be redeemed on Saturdays in the City Hall atrium from 9 a.m.—12:30 p.m. and at Tuesday Market. At the Holiday Market, redemptions may be turned in at the Market Information Table from 10 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

The vendor will receive a redemption receipt and will be forwarded payment from the City of Bloomington within a few weeks

All Gift Certificates and/or Market Bucks should be submitted at Market no later than the Holiday Market. In the event that a vendor does not redeem Gift Certificates and/or Market Bucks by the Holiday Market, the Market Coordinator may be contacted for possible redemption.

E. General Information

Food Safety on the Farm

Food safety starts on the farm. It is vitally important to practice safe food handling on your farm to help protect public health, as well as your family, business and livelihood.

Health and Safety Requirements

All items intended for human consumption must be kept out of direct contact with the asphalt at all times and be in safe and sound condition. The vendor is solely responsible for damages resulting from the sale of unsafe or unsound goods. Glass containers used for display purposes must be properly secured. With the exception of service animals, animals are not permitted in the Market, as defined by the paved area of Showers Common and the Market B-Line Café.

Sampling Product

Vendors interested in offering samples of their products should see the Market Coordinator for Sampling Guidelines.

Equipment and Supplies

Each vendor must supply his/her own tables or other display equipment. Umbrellas or other weather protection devices are supplied by the vendor and must be securely anchored. The vendor is solely responsible for damages or personal injury resulting from the use thereof. Prior approval is required for any heat-producing devices. Vendors will be required to adjust their setup if it is determined to be unsafe by the Market manager.

If selling items by weight, the Vendor must use an N.T.E.P. certified scale which is legal for trade. This scale will be subject to periodic inspection by the Monroe County Department of Weights and Measures. Some produce items are limited by what ways they can be sold. Please contact the Monroe County Department of Weights and Measures to learn about the legal method of sale for the most common fruit and vegetable items. Contact information is on p. 22 in the "Vendor Resources" section.

Indiana Sales Tax

Plants, crafts and other non-food items sold in Indiana are subject to sales tax. Vendors should apply for a Registered Retail Merchant's Certificate (RRMC). A business tax application (BT-1) must be filed through the Indiana Department of Revenue along with a registration fee. RRMCs must be renewed every two years.

Vacating the Market Site

On Saturdays, excluding the Holiday Market, vendors must vacate the premises, including the removal of all personal items and equipment, by 2 p.m. (with the exception that vendors' vehicles may remain in the Showers Common lot). On Tuesdays vendors must vacate the premises, including the removal of all personal items and equipment, by 7:30 p.m.

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is a USDA-funded program managed by the Indiana State Department of Health. The FMNP has two components: 1) For Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program participants and 2) for low-income seniors. Participants in the FMNP are provided with vouchers which can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from participating vendors. Vendors with qualifying products (fruits and vegetables) are strongly encouraged to participate. Vendors must be approved by the Indiana State Dept of Health prior to participating in this program. See "Vendor Resources" on p. 21 for contact information or ask the Market Coordinator for help.

Organic Certification

The Indiana Specialty Agriculture, Organics, and Small Farms Resource Guide is available online. Visit www.ams.usda.gov/nop for more information, including a list of USDA-accredited certification agencies. Federal law, which went into effect in 2002, requires that any grower with sales over \$5,000 calling their product organic, must be certified organic by a USDA-accredited agency. Growers with gross sales less than \$5,000 may call their product organic as long as they sign an affidavit to that effect and comply with all other USDA rules.

ATM Machine

There is an automated teller machine located in City Hall on the first floor, between the men's and women's restrooms.

Severe Weather and Market Suspension and Cancellation Policy

In the event of thunder, lightning, high winds, tornado, hail or other severe weather at the Market site, it is recommended that participants take shelter on the lower level of City Hall. In the case of heavy rain, thunder or lightning, if you cannot take cover in the building, then move to an enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and closed windows, taking care not to touch the metal frame of the vehicle until the threat has passed.

The Monroe County emergency sirens sound with a steady tone in the event that the National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning for the county or if emergency personnel have sighted a funnel cloud or tornado. At the time of the siren sounding, the Market Coordinator will alert Market patrons that the lower level of the City Hall is the safest nearby location and to seek shelter until the threat has passed. The tornado siren will sound for 5 minutes, but the cessation of the siren does not necessarily mean that the threat of a tornado has passed. Market staff will notify participants in City Hall when it is safe to return to the Market.

Sustained adverse weather or a potential natural disaster may necessitate a decision to suspend or cancel the Market. The safety of vendors, customers, and staff are always at the forefront of Market management's judgment. Prior to such a decision, consultation will take place with appropriate City safety staff and/or county agencies such as the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management, or the National Weather Service.

Vendor Profiles on Market Website

Farm Vendors and Food and Beverage Artisans are invited to submit information and a photo for an online profile page on the Market website: bloomington.in.gov/farmers-market/vendor. The profiles give Market customers a chance to learn more about participating Market farm vendors or businesses, growing practices, available product and contact information. The City reserves the right to edit or modify any content submitted to ensure it is appropriate for the City website and consistent with the City's objectives and goals.

To establish a profile submit an online form. The link to the online form will be available on the website after the space reservation meeting. Visit bloomington.in.gov/farmers-market for the online form. Profile information is due by March 24, 2024. Updates to existing profiles will be made once a year, during the application period, unless a major life event occurs that makes the profile inaccurate.

City's Rights

The City retains its rights to terminate the Market, or to change the times, dates, locations and/or policies related to the Market, at its sole discretion, whenever the City finds that it is in the public interest to do so. The City will make reasonable efforts to provide adequate notice of changes and cancellations to all vendors. In the event of Market suspension or termination, vendors will be reimbursed for their Reserved Space Fee, pro rata based on the number of weeks the Market is not open.

VENDOR BEHAVIOR

Commitment to the City of Bloomington's Values and the Market's Mission

The City of Bloomington considers diversity a source of strength that adds to Bloomington's character. The Bloomington Community Farmers' Market, as a program of the City, works to create an environment where all can feel welcome and safe regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, housing status or familial status. As a party to the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market Farm Vendor Contract, vendors shall collaborate with each other and the City, assisting in creating a welcoming environment for all who attend the Market and shall represent themselves in a professional manner that reflects their commitment to the Market's mission and customer satisfaction. Behavior outside of the Market that relates to the Market must not reflect poorly on the Market or the reputation of the City and must be consistent with the mission and goals of the Market.

Vendors acknowledge that the City of Bloomington prohibits its employees from engaging in harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, housing status or veteran status, including harassing or discriminating against vendors or their stand assistants at the Market. If a vendor or stand assistant believes that a City employee engaged in such conduct at the Market towards the vendor and/or any of its stand assistants, the vendor may file a complaint with the Market Coordinator and/or with the City Human Resources Department or the Bloomington Human Rights Commission. The City takes all complaints of harassment and discrimination seriously and will take appropriate disciplinary action if it finds that any City employee engaged in such prohibited conduct at the Market.

Complaint Policy and Process

Maintaining a supportive, respectful, and welcoming atmosphere at the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market is critical to the overall success of the Market. Professional conduct is expected at all times. Yelling, swearing, or other harassing or threatening behavior in person or via digital media will not be tolerated. This type of behavior may result in expulsion from the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market. Vendors who are expelled from the Market may appeal the decision to the Farmers' Market Advisory Council or Board of Park Commissioners, depending on the infraction.

Market management cannot effectively act on rumor or anonymous, vague, or untimely complaints about the conduct of others. All complaints by a vendor against another vendor must be submitted in writing to the Market Coordinator. Unsigned complaints will not be addressed. Complaints must be signed by individuals with direct knowledge of facts and events. Market management will strive to handle all complaints as efficiently, fairly, and discreetly as possible.

- All complaints by a vendor against another vendor must be submitted in writing to the Market Coordinator within 14 days of the incident in question. Complaints by or about customers must also be submitted in writing.
- Consultation with knowledgeable individuals such as Monroe County Health Department officials, Human Rights Commission, Bloomington Police Department or other local experts may be needed in the evaluation of complaints.
- Market management will investigate the allegations regarding vendor farms and/or products within 21 days. This may include an inspection visit to the accused vendor's farm or production site.
- The complainant and alleged violator may be asked to agree to attend a joint meeting if the Market Coordinator determines this would be useful in resolving the situation. The purpose of such a meeting would be to clarify policies, determine whether and to what degree there was a violation, and to determine what disciplinary action, if any, is appropriate.
- All investigations will be done directly and privately. At the conclusion of the investigation, a summary
 finding will be placed in the Market files and given only to parties involved. However, the complaint
 and all records of the investigation and sanctions are public records subject to disclosure pursuant to
 Indiana Law.
- The Market Coordinator and City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation representatives have full authority to interpret, implement, and enforce policies. Violation of these rules is cause for imposing sanctions up to and including expulsion from the Market.

Identify Your Space

Vendors must display a sign at their stand identifying their name, or the name of their farm or business.

Smoking and Vaping

Smoking and vaping are prohibited within the Market, as defined by the paved area of Showers Common, the Market B-Line Café, and the fee area of Info Alley during Market hours or on the Showers Plaza during events.

Tape on Shelters

Do not tape anything to the shelters.

Electricity

There are a few electric outlets located in the Market (see map on p. 23). Vendors located next to an outlet may utilize the electricity for themselves and/or allow other vendors access. Extension cords may not cross frequently traveled customer paths. Generators are not permitted.

Excess Produce

The Market partners with the Farm to Family Fund to collect extra farm products at Saturday and Tuesday Markets. These products are distributed to local food pantries. More information about these opportunities will be available from Market staff.

Compost

Any produce that is too damaged to donate to the Farm to Family Fund must be removed from the Market. Do NOT place compost in the trash cans.

Space Clean-Up

Clean up your area prior to leaving the Market. Dustpans and brooms are available in the Market shed for your use.

Dumping Water

Be considerate of vendors downstream, and pour excess water out on the plants in the landscaped areas.

Landscaping Carts

Landscaping carts are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Market shed to assist you in moving produce and supplies in and out of the Market. After using, please return carts to the Market shed.

Vehicles and Trailers

Vendors must work together when maneuvering vehicles through the Market. In particular, vendors unloading and removing vehicles (especially vehicles with trailers) from the Market must do so in a timely manner and in a way that does not unreasonably disrupt the vendor vehicle traffic flow in to and out of the Market. Detailed information on trailers in the Market is found on p. 10.

EXPECTATIONS

What the City expects from Vendors

Vendors and their stand assistants shall not be discourteous, disrespectful or dishonest to anyone with whom they interact at the Market, including Market customers and attendees, other vendors, staff, volunteers, entertainers or anyone else at the Market.

It is expected that day stall vendors pay their fees on the day of reservation. This applies to all vendors, not just day vendors.

Conduct at the Market on the part of a vendor or stand assistant that the City deems to be contrary to the provisions of the Vendor Contract, the Market Handbook or any Market rules may result in administrative action in accordance with the provisions of the Vendor Contract, including but not limited to suspension or ejection from the Market and/or future Market events. Vendors may appeal an adverse administrative action in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market Farm Vendor Contract.

Vendors shall notify the Market Coordinator or Supervisor immediately of any unsafe conditions.

Vendors shall cooperate with the City to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the Market remains a welcoming, inclusive and safe venue.

Vendors may not engage in political or religious activities at the Market, except for Info Alley.

What Vendors expect from the City

The City shall treat vendors and their stand assistants with courtesy, respect and honesty.

The City provides the Market as a location for producers to sell what they grow or create. Vendors understand that by managing the Market, the City is making no guarantee of the number of customers or the volume of business.

F. APPENDIX

VENDOR RESOURCES

Department of Natural Resources, Entomology Division

402 W. Washington St., Room 290W Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 232-4189 www.in.gov/dnr/entomology

Indiana Department of Health eFMNP

WIC Commodities Team 2 N. Meridian St. 5th Floor Indianapolis, IN 46204 wiccommoditiesprograms@health.in.gov (800) 522-0874 www.in.gov/health/wic

Monroe County Department of Weights and Measures

119 W. Seventh St. Bloomington, IN 47404 (812) 349-2566 www.co.monroe.in.us

Monroe County Extension Office

3400 S. Walnut St. Bloomington, IN 47401 (812) 349-2575 extension.purdue.edu/county/monroe/index. html

Monroe County Health Department— Senior Environmental Health Specialist

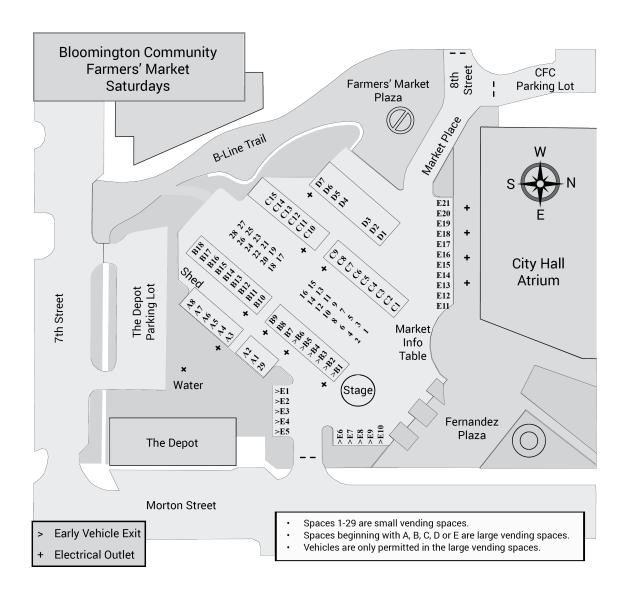
Jeffrey Taber 119 W. Seventh St. Bloomington, IN 47404 (812) 349-2837 www.co.monroe.in.us

State Egg Board

Poultry Science Building, Purdue University 125 S. Russell St. West Lafayette, IN 47907 (765) 494-8510 www.ansc.purdue.edu/ISEB

City of Bloomington Human Rights Commission

Bloomington City Hall 401 N. Morton St., Suite 220 Bloomington, IN 47404 (812) 349-3429 human.rights@bloomington.in.gov



IMPORTANT DATES IN 2024

- Thursday, March 7, 2024—May—October and April Market Space Reservation Meeting and Mandatory Vendor Meeting All vendors wishing to vend in 2024 should plan on attending.
- Monday, February 19, 2024—Farm Vendor Application needs to be on file if reserving a space at the time of the space reservation meeting. Vendor contracts and payment are due March 22, 2024 for those selling in April.
- Friday, March 29, 2024—Online and paper Vendor Profile submissions for the Market website due.
- Saturday, April 6, 2024—50th Anniversary of the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market begins.
- Monday, September 23, 2024—November Market and Holiday Market Space Reservation Forms
 need to be turned in at Market or to the Parks and Recreation Office.

FORMS NEEDED TO SELL AT MARKET

- Farm Vendor Application—All vendors selling at Market must have this form on file by the deadline listed above.
- Farm Vendor Contract—All vendors selling at Market must have this form on file by March 22, 2024. Vendors joining after April 6, 2024, must have this form on file prior to the first day of selling at the market.
- Exhibits to the Contract—Any vendor selling Value-Added Foods, Home-Based Vendor Foods, Pet Foods, Shell Eggs (not from chicken), or Aquaculture Foods must have the appropriate Exhibit on file and any additional paperwork required by the different regulatory agencies, which is specified on each Exhibit, by the deadline listed above.
- **November and Holiday Market Space Reservation Forms**—Any vendor interested in reserving a space for one of these Markets must turn in reservation forms by the deadline listed for each above.
- City of Bloomington W-9 and Vendor EFT Forms—Any vendor accepting Gift Certificates and/or Market Bucks (see pp. 15–16) must have these forms on file.

Notes

Notes





bloomington.in.gov/farmersmarket