

WHO, WHAT & WHERE?- MARKET CATEGORIES

Certified Agricultural Products include:

Fresh Fruits, Nuts, Vegetables, Shell Eggs, Honey, Flowers, and Nursery Stock, all in an unprocessed state.

* All certified Ag. products require a Certified Producers Certificate. All of the certified products that you bring to market must be listed on this certificate.

* Egg producers must also register with the state. If you have less than 500 birds, the license is fee exempt.

* Nursery Stock requires a license from the Mendocino County Dept. of Agriculture and may be fee exempt if the estimated gross sales under a certain amount.

* Both cut flowers and nursery stock for non-food plants require that the vendor collect (or include in the price) tax, pay sales tax to the state, and have a sellers permit from the CA Board of Equalization.

* Vendors of certified Ag. products must pay the required CDFA fee of .60 each market day at the same time that stall fees are collected.

* Food sampling is permissible, but must adhere to Health Dept. requirements (see Food Sampling)

* Vendors of certified Ag. products must also submit Load Lists for each day that they attend market. Load lists may be submitted on copies of the enclosed form or one that you create.

Non-Certified Agricultural Products include:

All certified agricultural products that have been processed at an approved facility such as fruit juices, cheese, nuts and beans out of shell, jam, wine, fish and shellfish produced under controlled conditions in CA (aquaculture), and USDA approved meat and poultry.

* Documentation must show that the processing facility is a Health Dept. approved source. The specific product determines whether the permit is from the State Food and Drug branch, a USDA Federal inspection certificate, or a permit from Mendocino County Division of Environmental Health.

* Additional permits from Environmental Health may be necessary as well as adhering to specific requirements for food preparation, storage, packaging, transporting the product and displaying it at the market in a safe manner (including canopy, hand washing container etc.).

* Vendors of non-certified products must also pay the CDFA fee of .60 each market day at the same time that stall fees are collected, as well as submitting a Load List (see above).

* Food Sampling is permissible, but must adhere to Health Dept. requirements (see Food Sampling).

Non Agricultural Products include foods such as:

Bakery goods, purveyors of food to eat on-site, food products that require extensive processing, as well as products that contain too many ingredients not grown or raised by the farmer. It includes wild harvested fish, shellfish, seaweed, and any other wild-crafted foods. It also includes processed meat, fish or shellfish (such as sausage or smoked fish).

* Documentation must show that the processing facility is an approved source. The specific product determines the required permits. Additional permits are required for serving food at the market.

* Harvest of ocean food products must be licensed through the Dept. of Fish and Game.

* Mendocino County Environmental Health will monitor other requirements such as transporting, displaying and handling products at the market in a safe manner. Canopies are required. Ground cloths may be required for booths in grassy or dirt areas.

* No CDFA fee or Load List is required

Non-Food Products:

Only some of our markets include non-edible products (crafts, soaps), services and non-profit organizations. Admission is dependent upon several factors and the Market Manager's discretion.

* Space may be limited and first priority is given to agricultural products as defined above.

* Non-agricultural products and Non-Food Products are required to vend in a designated area separate from the agricultural section of the Certified Farmers Market according to Direct Marketing regulations. The distinction of separation might be a space or sign. Each Market Manager is responsible for arranging their market in compliance and must submit a map of designated areas to specific agencies.

* Vendors of Certified and Non-Certified Agricultural products, with permission from the Market Manager, may designate a small space in their own selling area for crafts or body products made primarily from ingredients grown or wild crafted on their farms (wreaths, beeswax products, soaps, hand-spun yarn etc.). The Certified and Non-Certifiable agricultural products must predominate in the vendor space in order to have a selling space in the Certified Market section of the market.

* Any vendor selling a non-edible product is required to collect (or include in the price) tax, pay sales tax to the state, and hold a seller's permit with the CA Board of Equalization.