

Statement from KDA

April 6, 2020

Many farmers' markets have opened in Kentucky and many more to come in the next few weeks. As you know COVID-19 has changed the way we do business and even the way we live our lives.

Farmers' Markets have always been a great location for customers to find fresh, healthy and locally grown food. It's been a place where customers can talk to the farmer and put a face with their food. We want to keep our Farmers' Markets open in Kentucky but with this comes guidelines to follow.

Under the Governor's Executive Order 2020-246, dated March 22, 2020 Farmers' Markets would be allowed to remain open for business. At this time, we ask that only producers selling food items, gardening supplies (such as bedding plants and flowers) and hygiene products be allowed to participate. While we are under these restrictions, we ask that no crafts and/or non-food items be sold at any Farmers' Markets. We also ask that you practice social distancing and the suggestions listed below.

During this time, we want all of our producers and market customers to be safe and healthy.

Please know that we are here for you, any questions or assistance that you need, please let us know.

Before You Open for Business

- Communicate with key community partners such as your local health department.
 - o Ask your health department what steps are necessary before you can open for business.
 - o Invite your health department to visit to see if they have any suggestions during this time or signage that may be of benefit to you and your customers.
- Educate your vendors about appropriate sanitization steps:
 - o Hand-washing at least once each hour.
 - o Sanitizing frequently-touched surfaces at least once each hour.
 - o Designating one employee who is wearing sanitary gloves to handle money or vouchers and another to handle food or products, where possible.
- Review your lay-out map to spread out the gaps between vendors and customers.
- Display public-health messages and materials (from CDC and health departments) where they are visible to everyone.
- Set up infection-prevention equipment and supplies, especially in high-traffic areas:
 - o For everyone: Sinks with soap and water, liquid sanitizer dispensers, and tissues.
 - o For staff handling money and vouchers: sanitary gloves and liquid sanitizer dispensers.
- Do not schedule grand-opening or kids-day events that might encourage people to congregate.
- Temporary close kid friendly area or playgrounds.
- Design a drive-through option/preorders/curb-side service for customers who wish to remain in their cars.
- Use social media platforms to communicate with customers about your public health measures.

- Use social media platforms to communicate with customers as inventory available.
- Eliminate missed-day fees or penalties that might encourage a vendor to be present while he or she is not feeling well.

During Operating Hours

- Tell vendors, and customers that protecting public health is of paramount importance.
- Display signage in public areas enforcing social distancing between people, and encouraging visitors to wash their hands.
- Possibly remove seating areas so customers or vendors will not congregate.
- Ensure restrooms are sanitized every hour and never runs out of soap and paper towels (if available).
- Encourage people who appear to be sick to go home and stay there until they are well.
- Practice social distancing.
- Do not offer free food samples or cooking demonstrations.
- Use sanitary wipes to clean frequently-touched surfaces at least once each hour.
- Ensure vendors sanitize their frequently-touched surfaces as part of their end-of-day activities.
- Do not use reusable shopping bags. Only new bags during this time.
- Offer to pick out the products for your customers. Tell them if they touch it, it's yours.

Sharon G. Spencer, Director
Direct Farm Marketing Division
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
111 Corporate Drive
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
502-782-4127 – direct line
502-229-0956 – mobile
www.kyagr.com
www.kyproud.com