



2026 Newton Farmers Market Rules & Guidelines

Newton, North Carolina

1. Market Hours & Setup

- Newton Farmers Market will run each Thursday evening from May 14-October 29, 2026, with the exception of August 20th, for a total of 24 weeks. Hours are 4-7 pm.
- Vendors may begin setup no earlier than 2:15 pm and must be fully set up by 3:45 pm. You may sell before 4 pm if you are prepared to do so.
- Vendors must remove their vehicle from the parallel parking spots near the market by 3:45 pm and park in a designated area until 7 pm.
- Breakdown must be completed and all items removed from the sidewalk within 60 minutes after market closing.
- Vendors must remain for the full duration of the market unless granted prior approval by the market manager.

2. Market Fees

- Application fee is \$20 (non-refundable).
- Vendor Fee is \$20 per week, paid monthly, by the 1st week of the month.
- 5% discount if the season is paid in full.
- Payments must be made with a check, money order, debit card or credit card. Cash will not be accepted.
- Vendors are required to take care of their sales tax payments. The Market is not responsible for that fee.

3. Farm Vendor Eligibility & Products

- Farm vendors must be a for-profit business, not a hobbyist or non-profit entity.
- Items included in the Farm Vendor category include:
 - Produce: Fruits, vegetables, herbs, honey and mushrooms.
 - Dairy: Eggs, pasteurized milk and cheese.
 - Meat and Poultry: Processed and packaged meat and poultry products. All



meat and poultry vendors must be registered as a meat handler with the NCDA.

- Cut Flowers & Transplants: Cut flowers loose or bundled and transplants.
- Nursery Stock: Potted plants, bare root plants, tree stock, shrubbery and fertilizers. Nursery producers must provide their Nursery License or Nursery Dealers License number to the manager.
- 50% of the vendor's products must be grown, raised, produced, or homemade by the vendor within North Carolina unless otherwise approved.
- 50% Resale items, which must also be grown, raised, or produced in North Carolina, are permitted for farm raised food products (ex. produce, meat, eggs, etc.) with prior management approval.
- All food vendors must comply with Catawba County Health Department, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, USDA, FDA, and NCDA regulations and are required to clearly label their products in accordance with Health Department guidelines.
- Vendors must submit a copy of all required permits, licenses, and certifications to market management.
- Vendors will also be asked to share their approximate sales data/# of transactions with Market staff monthly.

4. Other Food Vendor Eligibility & Products

- Items included in the Other Food Vendor Category includes:
 - Canned and Other Value-added Products: Highly acidified canned goods, as well as jams and jellies. Other value-added products might include dried items, pesto, ferments, non-acidified canned products, etc. Vendors must show regulatory compliance for the production of these products be it USDA, FDA, NCDA, or other. Producers of acidified foods must have a copy of their Acidified Foods Manufacturing School (aka "PICKLING SCHOOL") credentials on file with the market manager, as well as with them when selling at the market. All vendors of such products must have their KITCHEN INSPECTION on file with the market manager and available at market.
 - Baked Goods: Baked items from a certified kitchen. This includes, but is not limited to breads, cakes, brownies, cookies, and fruit pies. Vendors must have a copy of their KITCHEN INSPECTION form on file with the market manager, as well as with them when selling at the market.



- Food & Beverage: Any fresh food, ready to eat snacks/foods or drinks being served at the market. Food and Beverage vendors must provide their Health Department inspection to the market manager.
- All products must be produced or homemade by the vendor within North Carolina unless otherwise approved.
- All food vendors must comply with Catawba County Health Department and North Carolina Department of Agriculture USDA, FDA, and NCDA regulations and are required to clearly label their products in accordance with Health Department guidelines.
- Vendors must submit a copy of all required permits, licenses, and certifications to market management.
- Vendors will also be asked to share their approximate sales data/# of transactions with Market staff monthly.

5. Craft Vendor Eligibility & Products

- Crafts are defined as soaps, lotions, salves & related products, crafts and art products.
- All items must be hand crafted by the vendor.
- To maintain a balanced vendor mix, craft vendors will be capped at 10% or less of the total available vendor spaces.
- All products must be handmade by the vendor within North Carolina unless otherwise approved.
- Vendors will also be asked to share their approximate sales data/# of transactions with Market staff monthly.

6. Community Booth

- 1 nonprofit or other organization may set up a booth at the Market per week. Please contact the Market Manager for more information.

7. Booth Spaces & Equipment

- Booth spaces are assigned by the market manager and may not be changed without approval.



- Vendors must provide their own tables, tents, lighting, and extension cords.
- All tents must be properly weighted (minimum 40 lbs per leg) to ensure public safety.
- Booth spaces are 10'x12'. Tents must be no larger than 10'x10' and have a fire-retardant label on them.

8. Cleanliness & Waste

- Vendors are responsible for keeping their booth area clean during and after the market.
- Trash, including cardboard boxes, must be disposed of in designated areas.
- No dumping of liquids, oils, or waste other than water onto streets or storm drains.

9. Electricity & Fire Safety

- Electrical access is available in a limited basis and use must be approved in advance.
- Vendors using cooking equipment, generators, or open flames must follow all fire safety regulations and be approved in advance.
- Fire extinguishers are required for vendors using heating or cooking equipment.

10. Conduct & Market Atmosphere

- Vendors must conduct themselves in a professional, respectful, and family-friendly manner.
- Harassment, aggressive sales tactics (including hawking), or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Music or amplified sound is not permitted.
- No Smoking allowed within the "footprint" of the market
- No live animal sales.
- Pets are allowed if leashed and must follow Newton's leash ordinance.
- All prices and business names should be clearly displayed for customers to see.
- Table displays should have levels/layers of product in regard to height – not all product laying flat on the table.



11. Vehicles & Parking

- Vendor vehicles must be unloaded and removed from the market area by 3:45 pm and parked in a designated parking area.
- Vehicles may not re-enter the market area until the market has officially closed.

12. Weather Policy

- The market will operate rain or shine unless deemed unsafe by the market manager.
- Vendors are responsible for monitoring weather conditions and securing their booths accordingly.
- In the event of severe weather, vendors must follow instructions from market staff immediately.

13. Cancellations & Attendance

- Vendors must notify the market manager 48 hours before market opening if they cannot attend. This is the minimum time needed to notify substitute vendors and fill gaps in the market. No refunds will be given, and the new vendor will need to pay the typical weekly vendor fee.
- Repeated no-shows without notice will result in loss of vending privileges.
- The market reserves the right to limit vendor numbers and product selection to maintain balance and quality.
- In order to provide the best market experience for customers and best sales for vendors, weekly vendor attendance is encouraged.

14. Enforcement & Violations

- The market manager has the authority to enforce all rules and make on-site decisions.
- All suggestions, complaints, and comments must be presented in writing to the market manager or DNDA Executive Director, Mary Yount, signed by the vendor with their name and contact information. The staff will consider all written suggestions, complaints, and comments.
- Violations may result in warnings, fines, or suspension from the market without refund.



- Continued violations may result in permanent removal from the market without refund. T
- The NFM staff and DNDA Executive Director reserve the right to change and/or add rules during the season. In such a case as they enacts this right, all vendors will receive written notification of the rule change or addition.

15. Liability & Insurance

- Vendors participate at their own risk.
- Vendors are responsible for any damage or injury caused by their products, equipment, or actions.
- Proof of liability insurance may be required for certain vendors.

I have read, understand, and will abide by the regulations set forth in this guidebook.

Signed: _____ Date: _____