



Rules and Vendor Agreement

Mission Statement

The mission of the Twin Cities Farmers Market (TCFM) is to support and promote **local, small-scale sustainable agriculture, showcase regional arts and crafts, and foster a vibrant sense of community** in Copperhill, TN and McCaysville, GA.

Time & Location

The Twin Cities Farmers Market (TCFM) is held on the historic steel bridge connecting **McCaysville, Georgia** and **Copperhill, Tennessee**, with additional vendor space extending onto **Grande Avenue in Copperhill**.

The market operates every other **Saturday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM** (if there are any changes to market hours, they will be shared with you when your market attendance is confirmed), beginning **May 24 through October 11**. (May 24, June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, August 2, August 16, August 30, September 13, September 27, and October 11)

Market dates are strategically aligned with train arrivals from the **Blue Ridge Scenic Railway** (11:00 AM–1:00 PM) and the **Tennessee Valley Railroad** (12:30 PM–2:00 PM), offering vendors greater visibility and foot traffic from visiting passengers.

Vendor Permits & Fees

- The Twin Cities Farmers Market (TCFM) operates across the cities of Copperhill, Tennessee and McCaysville, Georgia. Vendors must comply with all applicable **local, county, state, and federal laws** based on the location of their booth and the nature of the products being sold.

- All vendors must obtain a **vendor permit in advance** from either **Copperhill City Hall (TN)** or **McCaysville City Hall (GA)**—depending on where your booth will be located.
 - **No permits will be issued on market day (Saturdays).**
 - The **seasonal fee is \$25 per booth.**
 - Booths are assigned **first come, first served**, with limited spaces reserved for vendors with accessibility or setup needs.
 - Vendor fees help cover promotional costs such as signage, advertising, and directional wayfinding.
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Licensing, Permits, and Tax Requirements

All vendors are responsible for meeting **legal and regulatory obligations** in the state in which they operate. These include:

General Sales & Tax Compliance

- **Tennessee vendors** must comply with **Tennessee Department of Revenue** rules, including **sales tax registration and collection.**
- **Georgia vendors** must comply with **Georgia Department of Revenue** rules, including **sales tax collection** if applicable.
- Vendors are **individually responsible** for obtaining any necessary **state or local business licenses**, permits, and for **remitting applicable sales tax.**

Food Vendors

- **Copperhill:**
 - **Tennessee Homemade Food Act (Tenn. Code Ann. § 53-8-1)**
 - Homemade food items that are non-Time/Temperature Control for Safety (non-TCS) can be produced and sold without a license.
- **McCaysville:**
 - **Georgia Cottage Food Program (GA Rules 40-7-19)**
 - Selling of jams, jellies, breads, cookies, cakes, vinegars, and other homemade goods requires a Cottage Food License.
 - **Cottage food producers** in either state must **display their license or exemption notice.**

Egg Sales

- **Vendors** must have a valid **Egg Candler's License.**
- The license must be **displayed at your booth.**

Nursery Plants

- Vendors selling plants must comply with:
 - **TN Nursery Certification (TDA Rule 0080-06)**
 - **GA Nursery Dealer License Requirements (GA Dept. of Agriculture)**

Scales

- The use of any scale to weigh items **must be certified by the respective state's Department of Agriculture**.
 - Tennessee: **Weights & Measures Program**
 - Georgia: **Fuel & Measures Division**
 - Use of uncertified scales will result in **state-imposed fines** and expulsion from the market.
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Product and Booth Requirements

- **Produce must be labeled** with its **location of origin**.
 - Only USDA-certified growers may label products as "**organic**." Others may state they use "organic practices," but may **not use the term 'organic'** unless certified.
 - All arts and crafts must be **handmade** by the vendor. No mass-produced, imported, or resale items are allowed.
 - **Yard sale or flea market items are not permitted.**
 - Each vendor must display a **business name sign** at their booth.
 - Vendors may sell **chilled bottled water only**, priced at **no more than \$1.00**. No other beverages are allowed unless approval was given.
 - Pricing is at the discretion of the vendor but should reflect **fair market value**. Cooperation in pricing is encouraged.
 - Except for recognized animal rescue organizations promoting pet adoption, livestock and domesticated animals may not be offered for sale.
 - No double booths for vendors.
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Operations & Setup

- Vendors must be **set up by 10:00 a.m.** on market day.
 - If a vendor has not arrived by **9:15 a.m.**, the space may be reassigned.
 - Notify **Copperhill or McCaysville City Hall** in advance if you will be absent.
 - **No vehicles** may remain in the market area during open hours.
 - **Electricity is not provided**, and **gas-powered generators are prohibited**.
 - **Tents must be anchored** with a minimum of **30–40 lb. weights at each leg**. No weights = no tent. Ropes and stakes are not an acceptable option to tent weights. We are not allowed to stake in the roadbed or bridge beams. Weights must be the first thing that is done, immediately after the tent is set up. Vendors who do not come to the market equipped with proper weights will not be allowed to set up a tent. **NO excuses!**
 - Vendors must **remove all trash** from their site at the end of each market day. Leave your spot cleaner than when you arrived.
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Conduct, Safety, and Compliance

- All vendors must behave professionally and foster a cooperative market environment.
- Discrimination is prohibited on the basis of **race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity**—as required by both **Tennessee** and **Georgia** human rights laws.
- **Smoking is not permitted** within the market area.

- Vendors offering services (e.g., knife sharpening, entertainment, face painting) must receive **prior approval**.
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Rule Violation Enforcement Policy

- **First violation:** Verbal warning
 - **Second violation:** Written warning
 - **Third violation:** Possible suspension or removal from the market
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Vendor Permit Application

To apply as a vendor at the **Twin Cities Farmers Market (TCFM)**, please follow the instructions below:

1. How to Apply

Submit your permit application to **Copperhill City Hall (TN)** or **McCaysville City Hall (GA)**—depending on where your booth will be located.

2. Photos Required

Attach **5–7 clear photos** of your products.

At least **2 photos** must show you actively **growing, producing, or creating** your items.

These images will be used for **marketing and promotional purposes** on social media and print materials.

Applications without photographs will not be considered.

3. Permit Fee

The **vendor permit fee** is **\$25**, payable to **Copperhill City Hall (TN)** or **McCaysville City Hall (GA)**—depending on where your booth will be located. The fee remains the same whether you participate just once or for the entire season.

This fee helps offset market advertising costs.

Questions?

Contact **Copperhill City Hall (TN)** or **McCaysville City Hall (GA)**—depending on where your booth will be located.

Share this opportunity with fellow farmers, growers, and artisans!



VENDOR PERMIT APPLICATION

By signing this permit application, the vendor states that they have read, understood, and agrees to abide by the Twin Cities Farmers Market (TCFM) mission, goals, and rules as stated on the application.

Vendor shall be individually and severally responsible, and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the TCFM, the City of McCaysville, the City of Copperhill, and other vendors, for any loss, personal injury, death, and/or other damages, including attorney's fees, that occur because of the vendor's negligence or that of its agents and employees. TCFM is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to vehicles or property of the vendor.

Vendor agrees to hold harmless the TCFM, the City of McCaysville and the City of Copperhill from any legal or financial liability in case of accidents or incidents at the market.

Vendor agrees to hold the TCFM, the City of McCaysville and the City of Copperhill harmless for any injury sustained while conducting business at the TCFM.

Farm/Business Name:

Owner/Applicant Name:

Physical Address:

E-mail:

Phone:

The products I will be selling are: (circle/put an X next to or /highlight all that apply)

Produce	Plants	**Baked Goods	Artist	Photographer	Jewelry
**Eggs	**Jams/Jellies	Other (describe)			

*****License required – please include a copy of your cottage or egg candler license with the application – we do not need a copy of your drivers license***

Please initial the following items:

I have read and understand the tent weight requirements:

I have read and understand the market rules and regulations:

Signature

Date: