

# Farmers Market Vendor Application 2026



## Vendor FAQs

### **Q: What if I don't have or don't want to obtain a Cottage Food License?**

**A:** That's okay—we still encourage you to participate.

If you choose to sell without a Cottage Food License, you must follow safe food handling practices, maintain a clean preparation environment, and clearly display a notice at your booth stating that your products are not licensed or inspected. While a Cottage Food License is recommended, it is not required to participate.

### **Q: What does it cost to be a vendor?**

**A:** There is no vendor fee. Our goal is for vendors to keep 100% of their profits.

### **Q: Do you provide tables and chairs?**

**A:** No. Vendors are responsible for bringing their own tables, chairs, and any display or setup materials.

### **Q: Do I need labeling for food or beverage products?**

**A:** Yes.

- All prepackaged items must include an ingredient label
- Prepared or made-to-order items must include allergen awareness signage •

Vendors must be able to provide ingredient information upon request. These practices help ensure a safe experience for all customers.

### **Q: Do I need to register for each location?**

**A:** No. You need only complete one application to be eligible to sell at any Greater Wabash Food Council sites. Please let the market location's Market Manager know dates you plan to attend so advertising can be done the week of market.

## ✓ **Vendor Expectations**

Vendors are asked to:

- Remain set up for the full duration of market hours
- Notify the Market Manager of planned attendance dates
- Communicate cancellations as early as possible
- Indicate participation in SNAP/LINK Match programs
- Keep their space clean and free of debris
- Maintain a respectful, family-friendly environment

For questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact your Market Manager.

## **Market Information**

The Greater Wabash Food Council sponsors farmers markets throughout the region. SNAP and LINK Match vouchers can be obtained at any market and used at any participating location. Customers should look for vendors displaying the “We Accept SNAP / LINK Match” sign.

## **Market Locations & Times:**

- Market Street Mercantile – Mt. Carmel (Mon 5–8 PM, Sat 8 AM–Noon)
- Carmi Farmers Market – Carmi (Tues 5–7 PM)
- Pete’s Produce – Mt. Carmel (Tues 4–7 PM, Thurs 10 AM–2 PM, Sat 9 AM–Noon).
- Grayville Farmers Market – Grayville (Wed 5–8 PM)
- Fairfield Farmers Market – Leo French Park (Thurs 5–7 PM)
- West Salem Farmers Market – Village Square (Fri 9 AM–Noon)
- Olney Farmers Market – City Park (1st & 3rd Sat 9 AM–1 PM)

## **Q: What does it mean to accept SNAP?**

**A:** This market is authorized through the USDA to accept SNAP benefits. Customers swipe their SNAP card at the Market Manager’s booth and receive paper vouchers, which can be used with participating vendors.

## **Q. What items are SNAP eligible?**

**A:** In Illinois, SNAP benefits can be used to purchase a variety of foods including fruits, vegetables, dairy products, meat, poultry, fish, breads, cereals, grains, honey, eggs, garden vegetable starts and seeds. However, items like alcohol, tobacco, and hot prepared foods are not eligible for purchase with SNAP benefits.

**Q: Can I choose when to accept SNAP?**

**A:** Yes. Vendors may choose to accept SNAP at any time and are not required to participate at every market. Participation in SNAP is encouraged but not required. Vendors will be provided with a laminated vendor SNAP accepted card for their table to be returned to Market Manager at the end of each market.

**Q: What is the Link Match program?**

**A:** When customers use SNAP, they receive matching funds through a grant program that supports fresh food access.

- SNAP vouchers can be used on all eligible food items
- Link Match vouchers can only be used for fresh fruits, vegetables, and food producing plants

**Q: What does a match look like for customers?**

**A:** If a customer spends \$5 in SNAP, they receive \$5 in SNAP vouchers and \$5 in matching vouchers—giving them \$10 to spend at the market.

**Q: Do vouchers expire?**

**A:** No. Vouchers do not expire and can be used throughout the season or at any participating Greater Wabash Food Council market.

**Q: If I accept SNAP, how do I get paid?**

**A:** At the end of the market, bring your collected vouchers to the Market Manager. Vouchers will be counted, and you will be reimbursed in cash. Regular vendors participating in multiple Greater Wabash Food Council markets may be eligible for direct deposit—see your Market Manager for details.

**Q: Do I get paid dollar for dollar?**

**A:** Yes. Vendors are reimbursed the full value of vouchers collected. Please note SNAP transactions are issued in whole dollars, so vendors may need to round prices when accepting vouchers.

## IMPORTANT WEBSITES/Resources:

- It is up to the vendors to follow all state/federal/local regulations for the items you sell and assume all product liability.
- Farmers Market Food Safety Guide - [https://www.ilfb.org/media/14785/23-681-gac\\_farmers-market-guide\\_519\\_web.pdf](https://www.ilfb.org/media/14785/23-681-gac_farmers-market-guide_519_web.pdf)
- PUBLIC HEALTH (410 ILCS 620/) Illinois Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. <https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/ILCS/Articles?ActID=1577&ChapterID=35>
- PUBLIC HEALTH (410 ILCS 650/) Sanitary Food Preparation Act. <https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/ILCS/Articles?ActID=1584&ChapterID=35>
- Eggs - <https://agr.illinois.gov/consumers/egginspection/selling-eggs.html>
- Cottage Foods - <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>
- Meat - <https://agr.illinois.gov/animals/meat-inspection/meat-poultry-license/brokers.html>
- Plants - <https://agr.illinois.gov/plants/nurseries.html>
- Honey - <https://beekeepingregulations.com/state-of-illinois/>

We do ask that you provide copy of any licenses or certifications and that you display any licenses or certifications at your vendor set-up. The Greater Wabash Food Council is not enforcement and leave all compliance with the Vendor. It is up to the vendors to follow all state/federal/local regulations for the items you sell and assume all product liability.

All vendors will be required to sign and submit an Indemnity Agreement/Release of Liability to the Market Manager/Greater Wabash Food Council representative.

\*\*\* Please attach copy of any certifications/licensures/proof of liability insurance with your application.

## Farmers Market Vendor Application 2026

*Please complete and return this to the Market Manager prior to your first event.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website/FB Page(if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Product(s) to sold: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Greater Wabash Food Council Indemnity Agreement/ Release of Liability

The Vendor shall indemnify, keep and save harmless the Farmer's Market site provider, the Greater Wabash Food Council and associated personnel from and against all claims and demands resulting from Vendor's products, acts and omissions whether for injuries or illness to persons, or loss of life, or damage to property on or off market premises arising out of the use or occupancy of the market premises by Vendor, and shall defend at Vendor's own expense any action brought against the location provider, Greater Wabash Food Council and/or the Market Manager.

Vendor/Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Form of Payment: (circle one) Cash / Direct Deposit

For Direct Deposit, you will receive an email to set up your payment portal from People's State Bank of Newton. Payments will be issued every Friday.  
\*\* Must provide phone number and email above to set up this feature.