

FARMERS MARKET PRODUCT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Whatever role you serve at your farmers market, we know that you are not only dedicated to ensuring shoppers have access to delicious, locally grown food and other high-quality products, but that shoppers and the products they purchase are safe. Knowing which vendors need to be licensed is an important step you can take to help ensure the safety of the products sold at your market. Licensing requirements for your vendors can depend on the product being sold, how the product is prepared, and gross annual sales. Use the diagram below to determine the general licensing requirements for vendors selling products at the farmers market.

Food that is given away for free, such as samples from vendors or cooking demonstrations, may have different licensing requirements and should always follow the [Guidelines for Providing Safe Food Samples at the Farmers Market](#).



For a comprehensive review of all requirements, review the resources linked in the Other Considerations & Resources tab. Note that in specific instances, other license types may be allowable for some products. You should always consult with and follow the guidance of your area's MDARD inspector on variations from the information provided here.

PRODUCT TYPE	REQUIRED LICENSE	WHO REGULATES?	OTHER CONSIDERATIONS & RESOURCES
Whole, Unprocessed Fruits & Vegetables	None; License exempt under the Michigan Food Law	MDARD Food and Dairy Division	MDARD Licensing Exemptions
Cottage Foods ¹	None; License exempt under the Michigan Cottage Food Law	MDARD Food and Dairy Division	Vendors must comply with labeling and other requirements. Other Cottage Food resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Check a Cottage Food Label • Cottage Food Basics for Farmers Market Vendors • Cottage Food Labels: What You Need to Know • MDARD Cottage Food Information
Value-Added Products Not Eligible Under Cottage Food Law (salsa, pickled products, dairy products, etc.)	Retail Food Establishment	MDARD Food and Dairy Division	Food Establishment Licensing Details, FAQ, and Step-by-Step Guide Food Establishment License Applications
Pure Honey & Maple Syrup	Producers with gross annual sales of less than \$15,001: None; license exempt under the Michigan Food Law	MDARD Food and Dairy Division	Products must be of the seller's own production. Vendors must comply with labeling and other requirements.
	Producers with gross annual sales of more than \$15,001: Limited Wholesale Food Processor	MDARD Food and Dairy Division	Food Establishment Licensing Details, FAQ, and Step-by-Step Guide

¹ Under the Michigan Cottage Food Law, non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require time and/or temperature control for safety can be produced in a home kitchen for direct sales to consumers

PRODUCT TYPE	REQUIRED LICENSE	WHO REGULATES?	OTHER CONSIDERATIONS & RESOURCES
Eggs	Producers with less than 3,000 hens: A license is not required if the producer meets the requirements detailed here	MDARD Food and Dairy Division	Producers must be selling eggs of their own production direct-to-consumer. Vendors must comply with labeling and other requirements .
	Producers with more than 3,000 hens: Retail Food Establishment License	MDARD Food and Dairy Division	Food Establishment Licensing Details, FAQ, and Step-by-Step Guide
Wild Foraged Mushrooms	Wild Mushroom Expert Certification ²	MDARD Food and Dairy Division	Wild Foraged Mushroom Information
Beef, Pork, and Lamb	Retail Food Establishment License	MDARD Food and Dairy Division	Pprocessing must be done under USDA observation. Packaging must bear the mark of USDA inspection, and the business must have a Food Establishment License Vendors must comply with labeling and other requirements .
Poultry	Retail Food Establishment License	MDARD Food and Dairy Division	If the producer is slaughtering and selling more than 20,000 poultry per year, the meat must be processed in a facility licensed by the USDA. If they are slaughtering and selling less than 20,000 poultry per year, they may process the meat in a facility licensed by MDARD, but must process the meat of their own production themselves. Seller must have a Food Establishment License. More info here . Vendors must comply with labeling and other requirements .
Fish	Commercial Fishing License or Aquaculture Facility Registration	Michigan Department of Natural Resources, MDARD Animal Industry Division	Aquaculture Facility Licensing FAQ Vendors must comply with labeling and other requirements . This could also require an MDARD license depending on how the fish is sold. Contact your local MDARD inspector for more information.
Foods Prepared at the Market	Special Transitory Food Unit or Temporary Food Service Establishment License	Local/County Health Department	Local Health Department Map
Annual Plants, Cut Flowers, & Christmas Greens	None	MDARD Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division	Nursery Stock Licensing FAQ
Nursery Stock or Perennial Plants ³	Nursery Stock License	MDARD Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division	License type depends on if the seller is growing the stock themselves, or reselling.
Dog Treats & Pet Feed	Commercial Feed License	MDARD Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division	Vendors must comply with labeling and other requirements .

² Certification courses are offered by the Midwest American Mycological Information (MAMI) organization

³ Nursery Stock includes trees, shrubs, perennials, mums, fruit trees, berry plants, rose bushes, vines, herbs, and bulbs that are capable of surviving the winter when planted outdoors

PRODUCT TYPE	REQUIRED LICENSE	WHO REGULATES?	OTHER CONSIDERATIONS & RESOURCES
Wine, Mead & Hard Cider	Michigan Liquor Control Commission Special Permit, Retail Food Establishment License	Licensing and Regulatory Affairs	Wineries must produce less than 5,000 gallons per year. Other wine resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine Sales at Michigan Farmers Markets
Hulled Hemp Seeds and Hemp Seed Products	None	MDARD Food and Dairy Division	Hulled hemp seeds sold individually do not require a license, however, adding hemp seeds to other products may require additional licensing depending on the product. Consult this chart and/or your area's MDARD inspector to determine the appropriate license for those products.
Topical CBD & Smokeable Hemp Flower	Processor-Handler License	Cannabis Regulatory Agency, Food and Drug Administration	Other cannabis resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannabis Product Legality Chart • Cannabis Product FAQs

PRODUCTS PROHIBITED FROM SALE AT FARMERS MARKETS

- Live Poultry
- CBD Pet Treats
- Tobacco Products
- Smokable Marijuana Flower
- Growable Marijuana Seeds, Starts, and Plants
- Beer and Spirits
- CBD Edibles
- Viable Hemp Seeds, Starts, and Plants
- Raw Milk
- Marijuana Edibles
- Home Prepared Food, other than Cottage Food



WHO SHOULD I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

MDARD Food and Dairy Division
 Email: MDA-Info@michigan.gov
 Phone: (800) 292-3939
 Website: michigan.gov/farmersmarkets

DNR Fisheries Division
 Email: DNR-Fisheries@Michigan.gov
 Phone: (517) 284-5830
 Website: <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/fisheries>

MDARD Animal Industry Division
 Phone: (800) 292-3939
 Website: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/about/divisions/animal-industry-division-aid>



MDARD Pesticide and Plant Pest Management
 Phone: (800) 292-3939
 Website: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/about/divisions/pesticide-and-plant-pest-management-division-pppmd>

Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Michigan Liquor Control Commission
 Email: LARA-MLCC-Licensing-Information@michigan.gov
 Phone: (800) 701-0513
 Website: michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/lcc

Cannabis Regulatory Agency
 Email: CRA-Hemp@michigan.gov
 Phone: (517) 284-0815
 Website: michigan.gov/HempProcessing

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