

## Vendor Selection Statement

The mission of the Forsyth Farmers' Market is to promote understanding and participation in a local food system that supports sustainable production and increases access to local products. Each November, the FFM Vendor Committee reviews all applicants to the Forsyth Farmers' Market to decide if they are a good fit with the criteria below, which are guided by our [mission, principles, and goals](#). FFM has limited resources and will not be able to accommodate every vendor who applies. Applicants will receive a response within four weeks of the final application due date, which may be a request for more information.

1. The product should help us accomplish our mission. There are two basic parts to our mission: support local food producers and increase access to nutritious food.
2. The product and/or vendor should fit with current market logistics.
  - a. Product offerings: The market is only successful if the farmers and producers are making a profit. While we try to constantly increase the number of shoppers, *we may reject a vendor if the market is already saturated with a particular product offering.*
  - b. Individual Vendor Logistics: Because setting up and breaking down is arduous and time consuming, we may not be able to accommodate large vendors that will need continuous support in those areas. We are also confined by certain city regulations that do not allow for certain types of setups (i.e. food trucks, vehicles inside the park, ready-to-eat meals, etc.)
3. All current vendors in good standing will receive priority in selections.
4. New vendors may receive provisional acceptance if they are still getting required licenses or certificates.
5. Vendor preferences:
  - a. Vendors closer to Savannah are preferable, especially those less than 100 miles from Forsyth Park.
  - b. Prepared food vendors who source from local farmers are more likely to be selected. Our first preference are producers who use products from FFM vendors, and secondarily, other local or regional ingredients. While we acknowledge that many ingredients needed for commercially prepared food may not be available in our region, we prefer to see as many ingredients as possible for local or small-scale sources.
  - c. Vendors that are newer businesses will be prioritized to support startups and entrepreneurs.
  - d. Vendors who practice environmental stewardship.
  - e. Vendors who are part of a historically marginalized group
  - f. Vendors that are small scale farmers and producers will be prioritized.
  - g. Vendors that practice community involvement in other ways (i.e. nonprofit involvement, mutual aid efforts, donating or advocating for good causes, etc).