



Wiregrass Farmers Market

P.O. Box 444 • Tifton, Georgia • 31793
wiregrassmarket@gmail.com

LETTER OF INVITATION

Dear Wiregrass Farmers Market Prospective Vendor for 2017 Season:

The Wiregrass Farmers Market Board of Directors is already planning and preparing for the 2017 season. We are still making progress and hope to complete the process of obtaining non-profit status this year. We are still run mostly by community volunteers and want to use their time as advantageously as possible. We would be unable to operate this Market if it weren't for our volunteers.

We will again have a hands-on garden area, classes such as healthy cooking, canning and much more.

The enclosed market guidelines and application for the Market are intended to help maintain a vibrant, safe and high-quality market that complies with the Georgia Department of Agriculture policies. We desire to have the best market possible for both vendors and consumers. Those of you who participated in last year's market may feel the following information is redundant, but please read this letter, the guidelines, and application very carefully before you submit your application.

Our part-time Market Manager for the 2017 season, Susan Schwartz, will continue on with the WFM. Should you have any questions about the application, guidelines, or just need general information, you may contact Susan anytime via e-mail at scscarrot@hotmail.com.

Please note in planning for your upcoming crops that we require you to grow at least 75% of the produce you sell. We realize there are several weeks at the beginning of the market season and in the dead of summer when crops don't grow well in the Tiftarea. Please limit most of your 25% allotted resale to these times. We are not a resale market.

If you wish to pay the annual vendor fee for a farm/food table under the pole barn, the fee is **\$125**. These tables are on a first come, first served basis with priority given to vendors selling produce. Farm/food tables are **\$25** per month if paying monthly and craft tables are **\$7** per market. There will be no charge for non-profit groups, but only one per month will be allowed.

Absolutely no cash will be accepted for vendor fees. The only way you may submit vendor fees is by **checks** made payable to WFM and mailed to: WFM, Attn: Market Management, P.O. Box 444, Tifton, GA 31793. Vendors will not be allowed to sell if fees have not been received through the mail in advance and will be asked to leave the market. **WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY VENDOR FEES AT THE MARKET. GMA WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY PAYMENTS FOR MARKET FEES.** Please pay particular attention to this detail because we don't want to be in the awkward position of asking you to leave the market and you don't want to miss the opportunity to sell if you come with your product. Failure of vendors to follow this policy results in a bookkeeping nightmare and confusion as to vendor table assignments. Without Market Management knowing in advance who will be at each market we cannot plan appropriately.

Please notice the details in the application, and list any and all products that you desire to sell throughout the season. This will take some thought and planning ahead, but it is the most productive way for the Market Management Committee to plan out and prepare for the market season.

If you are selling produce which you represent is grown by you on local land owned by other parties, then you must furnish a copy of all written leases (copies attached to your application) signed by all parties involved identifying the following: the owner of the land; what percentage interest each party has in the crop; the county, Land Lot and District in which it is located; and the phone numbers for all parties. Also, if you are growing on lands of others, all parties to the lease must be willing to submit to a monthly farm inspection so the market can verify that you are actually producing the crop where you say you are. If you cannot show the Market Management Committee, or its designee, that you grew the crops you sold on the Saturday previous to your farm inspection and according to the leases you furnished, then you will receive a letter notifying you that you may not return to the Market for the remainder of the season, and any vendor fees will not be refunded. This is a serious issue and three strikes are not necessary for this rule to be in effect. *To repeat, if you bring produce to the market stating it is grown by you and that fact can't be substantiated by the copies of leases furnished by you and farm inspections, then you will receive a letter notifying you that you may not sell at WFM for the rest of the season.* Please note that you are agreeing to this policy when you sign and submit your application. In addition, you may not label produce as "organic" unless you have USDA certification or show that you qualify under USDA exemptions; however, you may use other words/phrases to describe your product. Produce vendors must complete and display a standard price sheet indicating price and origin of each item which should specifically identify whose farm it was grown on or from who it was purchased (for your 25% allowance) i.e., Cordele, Atlanta Farmers Market, etc. Price sheets and

display frames are provided at the market. The committee reserves the right to request removal of low-quality produce from a vendor's table. The committee may request a farm visit to verify farm practices and produce being sold by each vendor. Failure to allow a farm visit will result in a vendor's removal from the market.

Each vendor will be required to help with at least one fundraiser in 2017. Fundraisers are necessary to pay a part-time manager. It is the Board's intension to hold one in the Spring and one in the Fall. You will notice on the application that there is space for you to check your preference as to which fundraiser you would like to help with by providing your time and product. Please feel free to help with as many as you would like!

By signing and submitting your application you agree to be bound by the terms in same as well as terms set out in the accompanying Vendor Guidelines and this Letter of Invitation.

We anticipate that the Wiregrass Farmers Market will continue to attract local customers as well as visitors to the Museum and travelers from I-75. By adhering to these guidelines we strive to provide all customers with a truly special South Georgia experience.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and support!

Best regards,

The Wiregrass Farmers Market Board of Directors