



CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Farm Market Operation

A farm market is a producer operated facility where fresh fruits, vegetables and other food items are offered for sale.

Exemption from a Retail Food Establishment (RFE) License

The exemption to an RFE license is based upon the *types* of foods being offered for sale at the farm market and properly registering with the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Food Safety.



A farm market that only offers for sale the food items listed below is exempt from the RFE license:

- Cider and other juices *manufactured on site* at the farm market – must be properly labeled
- Commercially prepackaged food that is not potentially hazardous
This food must be contained in displays, the total space of which equals less than 100 cubic feet on the premises where the person conducts business at the farm market
- Eggs on the condition that the farm market operator is selling the eggs *from their own flock* of 500 or fewer birds
- Fresh unprocessed fruits or vegetables
- Maple syrup, sorghum, or honey [properly labeled]

- Non-amenable meats (rabbit, bison, etc.) on the condition that the non-amenable meats that farm market operator is offering to sell are *raised by them*
- Poultry on the condition that the farm market operator offering to sell the poultry annually slaughters one thousand or fewer chickens *of their own raising*
- Properly labeled products of a cottage food production operation

Is a farm market prohibited from offering other foods for sale such as milk and cheese?

No. The farm market operator, however, will lose exemption status and will need to become licensed by their local health department as an RFE.

Is a farm market that is listed in the *Ohio Farmers' Market Directory* exempt from the RFE license?

Not necessarily. The exemption from the RFE license is based upon the types of foods being offered for sale at the farm market. The *Ohio Farmers' Market Directory* is a state directory of farm markets that sell a variety of foods. Some of those listed in the directory may be exempt based upon the foods being offered for sale, while others may not be exempt.

Regulation of Farm Markets

A farm market that is not exempt because of the types of food it is selling is licensed and regulated by the local health department that has jurisdiction. It will be regulated under Chapter 3717 of the Revised Code as an RFE. The local health department will apply the *Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code* rules. The Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Food Safety inspects farm markets that are exempt from the RFE license and that are registered with that division.

More information

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