



# Food Safety Guidelines for FARMER'S MARKETS

**These guidelines are for Farmer's Markets which are permitted by Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD).**

Ingredients for food prepared must be purchased from an **approved source** such as a grocery store, or home grown by the vendor. Store ingredients away from chemicals (such as cleaners and pesticides).

**Time/temperature Control for Safety (TCS)** - previously referred to as "potentially hazardous" require special care in storing, cooking, refrigerating, and reheating. These are foods that consist, in whole or part of: milk, milk products, eggs, meat, poultry, fish, cooked rice, processed or cooked beans, vinegar/oil with garlic, or similar products. This would not apply to a fully cooked, dry product such as in cakes, breads, or fully dried pastas. TCS foods cannot be sold by a farmers' market home processor.

**Protect** food from potential contamination at all times, including during transporting or while being stored, prepared, displayed or dispensed. Booth surfaces must be made of smooth, easily cleanable material and be sanitized before use. Potential contamination includes: dust, insects, rodents, unclean equipment or utensils, and unnecessary handling.

**Wash hands** with soap for 20 seconds and dry with a paper towel before handling and serving food, especially after using the toilet or handling pets or chemicals. A hand wash station is required for those preparing samples. This includes a container of warm water with a "hands free valve", liquid soap, dispensed paper towels, and vessel to collect wastewater. Do not dispose of wastewater in street or storm drain, only in a sanitary sewer.

**Keep kitchen area clean and work surfaces sanitized.** A Chlorine sanitizer can be made by using bleach (**NO** scented or splashless bleach) and water. One teaspoon of bleach per gallon of room temperature water. Prepared fresh daily. No **pets** are allowed in the kitchen during preparation or at market booth.

**Clean clothing and effective hair restraints** (hair nets, hats, visors) should be worn while preparing the food. Long hair must be held back away from face. Maintain good personal hygiene at all times.

**Do not eat or smoke** while preparing food, or at your booth. If you have a drink due to hot or cold weather, use a cup with a lid, a straw, and a handle to minimize hand to mouth contact.

Do not prepare or sell food **when you are sick** with a fever, coughing or sneezing, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Keep food separated from non-food items, such as chemicals, during preparation, storage, transportation and display. Dogs and other pets must not come in contact with food or booth with food for sale.

**Package and label all food** for sale before it is transported to the market site. Label must truthfully identify the food along with the Vendor's name and the complete street address of the vendor or market. Weights and Measures 402-471-4292.

**Prepared food must be safe at room temperature (non-TCS) and must be made by the person selling the product.**

## **FOOD PRODUCTS**

**Produce:** Fresh produce may be sold without a permit or placard. \* There are special requirements for sprouts.

**Eggs:** Fresh eggs must be from your own flock, candled, graded, properly labeled and kept refrigerated at 45° F. If reusing egg cartons, all names, dates, US inspection label must be removed. You must have an egg# from NDA.

**Baked goods:** Fruit pies can be sold. Cheesecakes, cream pies ( those containing egg or dairy products, including pumpkin, pecan, custard etc..., meringue topping/ filling, and lemon bars ) may **not** be sold. Low sugar or no sugar pies are **not** permitted.

**Home Canned Products:** Home canned products cannot be sold or used in the preparation of food for sale unless your product is approved by the food processing authority (UNL) and permitted by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) as a processor. The only exception is jams, jellies, apple butter, chutneys, and syrups made with sugar. **No** low sugar/sugar free products or low acid fruit butters/ spreads are allowed.

**Noodles:** Can be sold if they are fully dried. Egg noodles should have a consumer advisory posted.

**Honey:** Can be sold but must be from your own hives. Honey cannot be sold to retail markets or restaurants unless licensed as a processor by NDA. Flavored honey may be sold if honey has come from an approved source.

**Herb Vinegars, Oils, Mustards, Salsa, or Dressing:** Cannot be sold unless approved by the food processing authority (UNL) and permitted by NDA as a processor.

**Meat:** Cannot be sold unless slaughtered in a USDA inspected facility. This includes homemade jerky, meat that has been smoked or otherwise cured and processed.

**Raw Milk:** Cannot be sold at farmer's markets in Nebraska.

**Advertising:** "Facebook" or other web based advertising is not permitted unless you are a licensed food establishment.

**Drinks:** Drinks must be non TCS, made with water from an approved source and prepared ahead of market by person selling product. You must have a state temporary permit and Lincoln placard to prepare and sell drinks. No "sun teas" allowed.

Contact the LLCHD Food Safety Program Office: 3140 "N" Street, (402) 441-6280, if you have any questions.