

# Mint Hill Farmers Market Rules

These rules are intended to be fair and to uphold the purpose of the market. The Mint Hill Farmers Market is sponsored by the Mint Hill Historical Society, a nonprofit organization that oversees the operation of the market. Its committee may modify or add to these rules at any time to better serve the market's interests.

**PURPOSE:** The Mint Hill Farmers Market was established in 2005 to encourage farming in the local area and to strengthen Mint Hill's sense of community. The market supports local farms as a viable part of the community by providing a place for local farmers to sell their produce directly to consumers. The market strives to be a blend of fresh marketplace and gathering spot for all members of the community in Mint Hill and our surrounding neighbors.

**TIME AND PLACE:** The Mint Hill Farmers Market operates from 8am until 12:00pm every Saturday, May 6 through September 30, 2006, in the grassy area by the Mint Hill Country Doctor's Museum at 7601 Matthews Mint Hill Road.

## **WHO CAN SELL?**

Market membership is limited to: farmers, gardeners, bakers and crafters, a crafter being a seller of handmade, home-oriented crafts. No flea market or yard sale type crafts are allowed.

The market will maintain a ratio of farmers, gardeners, crafters and bakers. The market reserves the right to prevent duplicate products into the market if the committee believes the number of vendors offering the same or a similar product is excessive.

## **WHAT CAN BE SOLD AT MARKET?**

1. Fresh/dried vegetables
2. Fresh cut/dried flowers and herbs
3. Any fruits, nuts or berries
4. Any plants or bulbs
5. Eggs produced by the seller's poultry
6. Fresh (not frozen) baked goods made by the seller
7. Preserves, pickles, relishes, sauces, vinegars, jams or jellies made by the seller
8. Baked goods must be fresh (i.e., made within 24 hours of market day)

Baked goods must be individually wrapped or, if warm, must be covered and protected from the environment at all times. Fresh prepared foods must be packaged in individual containers and kept appropriately chilled during the market. Container labeling must make it clear that fresh foods should be promptly refrigerated and has a limited shelf life. Labeling must list ingredients, vendors name and phone number.

All food must meet state and local health regulations. Compliance with various health and government sales tax laws and rules is the member's responsibility. All produce must be of top quality, to be determined by the market manager.

## WHAT CANNOT BE SOLD AT MARKET?

1. Baked goods that have been frozen
2. Internal use medicines (i.e., tinctures)
3. Water plants
4. No animals may be sold or given away at the market

## APPLICATION PROCESS FOR VENDORS:

Vendor applications for the 2006 Market season will be accepted starting February 4, 2006. All full time vendors from 2005 will have first consideration in selling their goods. All applications received will be reviewed by the market committee for compliance with market rules and for how the prospective vendor's product(s) fits with the market's needs. The committee formally accepts or rejects new vendor applications and vendors will be notified by e-mail or mail.

All accepted vendors must attend the market's membership meeting at 7pm, on Thursday, April 13, 2006, at the Mint Hill Historical Society. Membership fees must be paid in full at that time.

## FEES:

Annual market fee of \$25 is waived for members of the Mint Hill Historical Society. The annual membership fee for the Mint Hill Historical Society is \$15. Individuals may share a booth space and business name, but must pay individual membership fees.

Each seller must pay a daily selling fee of \$10 for one space. Vendors who sell for most of the season may opt to pay a reduced booth fee rate in exchange for prepaying in full at the beginning of the season.

22 weeks paid in advance earns a 20% discount (\$8 per space) = \$176 lump sum

16 weeks paid in advance earns a 10% discount (\$9 a week) = \$144 lump sum

Sellers must provide their own tents/awnings, tables, chairs, tablecloths, displays, signs, bags and all other necessary items for their booth.

## LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP:

Full-time Members: members who reserve and pay in advance for 16 weeks or 22 weeks.

\*Full-time members who pay for 22 weeks in advance will receive:

- (1) 20% off space fee(s)
- (2) Mint Hill Collectible 'Farmers Market' Apron (one per space reserved)
- (3) A 3-line booth product promotion on the Farmers Market homepage

\*Full-time members who pay for 16 weeks in advance will receive:

- (1) 10% off space fee(s)

Occasional Members: those who will sell at the market for less than 16 weeks must reserve their space on a weekly basis by contacting the market manager.

All members are asked to call the market manager by Thursday if they are not able to attend the Saturday market.

All members reserving spaces will be held responsible for their space fee in the event of no show.

Space assignments are for market day only and may vary each week.

### **MARKET DAY PROCEDURES:**

Vendors must arrive at the market and be set up by 8:00am. The market manager is responsible for all space assignments.

All member vehicles must be moved to the designated parking areas no later than 7:45am. Do not park in spaces reserved for other businesses. These areas are for drop off and pick-up only. Members or their representatives must occupy their space(s) from 8:00am until 12:00pm. No early departures are allowed. Members will be allowed one (1) hour after the market closes to clean up and leave the area. If a seller has an emergency, they should contact the market manager.

Vendors may begin selling to customers after the market bell has rung at 8:00am. Exception - farmers may sell produce earlier.

All vendors must conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner in dealing with customers and other vendors. No "hawking" of products, distraction of customers from another vendor's booth, or disparaging remarks about another vendor's goods will be tolerated. Each seller is responsible for cleaning up the area around his or her booth. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted.

No animals allowed on the MHHS grounds during Farmers Market hours.

The market does not allow solicitations for products, services or charitable contributions on market grounds.

### **LOCAL YOUTH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:**

The market allows for one FREE space to a local nonprofit youth group for the purpose of promoting their activities. A vendor application form must be submitted a minimum of one week in advance to request dates to participate in the market. All youth group and nonprofit organizations must comply with all market rules and procedures.

### **SIGNS:**

Members must display in a prominent place within their space an attractive, easy-to-read sign with their farm or business name and location. Members must post prices for all items. Prices should be fair market value.

**Anyone who fails to comply with the rules may have his or her membership terminated with no refund of fees. Market management reserves the right to prohibit anyone from selling at the market.**

## Application

Thank you for your interest in the Mint Hill Farmers Market. Please read the Mint Hill Farmers Market Rules very carefully. Fill out this application form completely and mail it along with a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope before March 31, 2006 to:

Barbara Lowe, Market Manager  
Mint Hill Farmers Market  
PO Box 23203  
Mint Hill, NC 28227  
Office Ph: 704-573-0726  
Home Ph: 704-545-3999

Or register your application on line by going to [www.minthillhistory.com](http://www.minthillhistory.com) and follow the link to the Farmers Market.

Applications received by the deadline will be reviewed by the committee for compliance with market rules and whether the product(s) fits with the needs of the market. You will be notified by mail (using the envelope you include) regarding status of your application. The committee will formally accept or reject applications before the market's annual membership meeting on April 13, 2006.

Vendors must attend the market's annual membership meeting on April 13, 2006 at 7pm and pay their annual membership fee(s). Make checks payable to the Mint Hill Historical Society. New vendors may begin selling at the first market of the season.

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

When do you intend to start selling? \_\_\_\_\_

How many weeks do you plan to sell? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe the produce or product (s) you plan to sell at the market. \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to sell items not on this list - you must have permission from the Market Manager before selling additional items. Please call the Market Manager so there's not a conflict of interest with other vendors.

I acknowledge I have read and understand the policies and rules governing the operation of the Mint Hill Farmers Market and I will abide by these market policies and rules. I further agree to allow representatives of the market to visit the premises where the products I intend to sell are produced. As a condition of membership, I agree to release and hold harmless the Mint Hill Farmers Market, the Mint Hill Historical Society, its directors, officers and employees from all claims relating to property damage or personal injury to myself, my family members and employees arising from such membership; and from all claims relating to property damage or personal injury to myself, my family members, employees, guest, invitee's, and customers related to or arising from my presence on the market site or its parking area. Also, I assume the sole responsibility for any and all product liability claims related to the sale of my products at the market located at 7601 Matthews Mint Hill Road, Mint Hill, North Carolina.

I (we), the undersigned, have read and agree to comply with the market guidelines; and take personal responsibility for compliance with any state health or tax regulations regarding the sale of goods at the Mint Hill Farmers Market.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Do Not Write Below This Line -For Market use only:

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Application received by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_