

Bellingham Farmers Market

Vending Categories

The Bellingham Farmers Market is a membership organization. Full members, in good standing (who have paid current dues and who reside in Whatcom or Skagit counties), have voting privileges. Below is a description of the membership categories. Please refer to the Bellingham Farmers Market Handbook for a complete description of membership categories and the requirements of each.

Farmer Member

Farmers are persons who raise produce (vegetables, fruits), herbs, flowers or nursery crops from seed or plants and care for, cultivate and harvest the crops offered for sale at the Market. Also in this category are beekeepers, egg farmers, shellfish growers, poultry and livestock producers and farmers who process their own raw product into ?value added? items; which are not juried. The location of the farm and residence must be within Whatcom or Skagit counties. A farmer vendor can sell crafted items (that have been successfully juried), made from raw materials not produced themselves, totaling no more than 20% of yearly gross sales.

Food Processor

Processed Food Vendors are vendors offering fresh food product that they have processed themselves into the product being offered for sale at the market. These products are prepackaged and meant to be *taken home*. Upon approval of the board, these vendors may also offer items that they do not process. Such non-processed items are specifically limited so as not to compete with locally handmade processed items.

Concessionaire

Concessionaires are vendors offering fresh food products that they have processed themselves into products being offered for sale at the market. These products are *ready-to-eat* and intended for consumption at the Market. Upon approval of the board, these vendors may also offer packaged foods and items that they do not process. Such non-processed items are specifically limited so as not to compete with locally handmade processed items.

Craft Member

Crafters are persons who craft with their own hands the products they offer for sale at the Market. To qualify as a crafter, a majority of the tools and equipment used by the crafter to produce the products must require skills, personal handling, and/or guidance by the crafter. A crafter, to qualify for and maintain Market membership must be successfully juried.

Contract Vendor Member

Eastern Washington Produce Reseller: Vendor who sell fruits and vegetables from Eastern Washington that cannot be locally grown in reliable quantity; limited to no more than two stalls each season.

Fresh Seafood Vendors: Vendors offering fresh seafood caught in area waters.

Prepared Food Vendors: Vendors who offer fresh food products that they have processed themselves. These products are ready-to-eat; they may also sell packaged food. Upon approval of the board, these vendors may also offer items that they do not process. Such non-processed items are specifically limited so as not to compete with locally handmade processed items.

Processed Food Vendors: Vendors offering fresh food product that they have processed themselves into the product being offered for sale at the market. These products are prepackaged. Upon approval of the board, these vendors may also offer items that they do not

process. Such non-processed items are specifically limited so as not to compete with locally handmade processed items.

Service Providers and others: vendors offering special services and other non-food items to customers at the Market (i.e. Massage, face painting, plant fertilizer, etc.).

Partial Membership?

Bellingham Farmers Market is pleased to offer a trial membership for first time vendors. New vendors can try out the Market for three days during the season and pay only half of the membership fee. If you enjoy being a vendor during those three days, and then decide you would like to expand your involvement with the Market, we will welcome you to join as a full voting member. Applicants must reside in Whatcom or Skagit Counties.

The Market offers a wonderful opportunity to explore starting a business without committing to the significant overhead of permanent commercial selling space. You can determine what types of products people are interested in buying and find out how to appropriately price items to sell most effectively. You can learn from other vendors about what sells and what doesn't and get to know what the public is willing to spend their money on. This practice works: The Bellingham Farmers Market is proud to have been the launching site for many successful businesses and we look forward to working with you to have a great first market experience.