

Ithaca FARMERS MARKET

at STEAMBOAT LANDING

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Ithaca Farmers Market. For over 25 years the market has been an integral part of the local community and the regional economy. The market is a self-governing cooperative that offers farmers, craftspeople, bakers, and food producers the opportunity to come together with townspeople and tourists in an exciting market atmosphere.

The Ithaca Farmers Market promotes local enterprise by providing and maintaining a viable market outlet for local family farms and self-employed plant growers, craftspeople, and food producers.

To become a member of the Ithaca Farmers Market, you must live within a 30-mile radius Ithaca, and you must also grow, bake, or make everything you sell.

We welcome you to our diverse marketplace. Approximately 125 vendors sell a wide assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, cheeses, and other dairy products, meat, and poultry, wool, honey, and maple syrup, juices and cider, jams and jellies, herb vinegars and salad dressings, baked goods, gourmet foods, flowers, bedding plants, and all manner of crafts, clothing, and artwork. In addition, local and international musicians provide casual entertainment.

The Ithaca Farmers Market currently operates on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at Steamboat Landing, which is located near the corner of Route 13 and 3rd Street (behind B&W Supply). In addition, the market operates in downtown Ithaca on Tuesdays at Dewitt Park on Buffalo and Cayuga Streets.

Market season and hours:

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 2p.m., first Saturday in April through the third Saturday in December

Sunday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., May through October

Thursday: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., mid-June to August

Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., mid-May through October

For a market application, please download the appropriate forms from this website.

Associate Vendor: This membership allows craft and food vendors who cannot become Full Members the opportunity to sell at our Thursday, Sunday and Tuesday markets. Associate Vendors can also sell at Saturday markets in the spring and fall before and after Sunday market begins (mid-June) and ends (end of October). During the summer season, they can sell during a Saturday market if space is available, provided that they also attend the following Sunday market. All members can attend Tuesday market at Dewitt Park (from mid-May through October).

Associate Vendors must comply with the same regulations as Full Members, but since they do not qualify for the IFM Certificate of Membership, they cannot vote in elections or reserve spaces on Saturday. Full membership spaces will be offered to Associate Members as they become available.

Easy-Entry Participant: This third option for membership is available to any vendor who wants to sell at the Thursday, Sunday and/or Tuesday markets only (no Saturdays) for a reduced fee. The annual fee for Easy-Entry Participants is less than for other members and there are no work requirements; otherwise, the general market regulations apply. Easy-Entry Participants will be assigned booths at the discretion of the market manager.

Work Hours

must be paid before items are reviewed.

A copy of the IFM Vendor Handbook (which contains market regulations) is given to each member. Failure to follow the market regulations can result in loss of membership.

The Ithaca Farmers Market is a cooperative, so all members are expected to work a certain number of hours, depending on the number of markets attended. Members who do not work the determined number of hours for the season will owe the market \$12.50 per hour. For example, attending one to five markets means that five work hours are due (see chart on preceding page). A maximum of twenty work hours is required for the season.

Vending at the Ithaca Farmers Market

The overall market membership must be at least 60% agricultural vendors, with the remaining 40% divided between craft and food vendors, as per market regulations.

Full Member: This membership is for all agricultural vendors who wish to become full members and for full members who wish to renew their membership. Full membership for food and craft vendors is by invitation only as space becomes available. Full members must purchase a share certificate, making them part owners of the Ithaca Farmers Market. A Certificate of Membership costs \$300, payable over three years. Members who pay their annual membership fee and make payments on their certificate, if not already paid in full, are eligible to vote at membership meetings.

Dear Prospective Saturday Market Vendor:

In the last couple of years the Ithaca Farmers' Market has grown considerably, which has limited availability of open stalls on Saturdays during our busy season. The market pavilion has 88 booths inside and 2 new stalls which are under construction outside the pavilion, behind the office, 83 of these booths are reserved by existing market members, 7 stalls are unreserved and are, therefore, open on Saturdays.

During the busy season, mid July to mid October, most reserved booths are full. Unreserved stalls, and any reserved booths which are unoccupied for the day, are assigned on Saturday morning. To assist us in the process of assigning booths the Market has established a point system that ranks those needing booth space on the basis of the number of year(s) at the IFM, previous year work hours, and previous year market attendance. Because we are a farm market, unreserved booths are given to agriculture vendors first, regardless if a food or craft vendor has more point than the agriculture vendor.

So, available booths are distributed first to agriculture vendors with the most points, and then to food or craft vendors with the most points, providing there are booths still available. On busy market days we also have vendors who set up outside the pavilion. This is because all available booths have been occupied for the day. Presently, there are two unreserved booths inside the pavilion, which are designated as half booths. The market manager has the authority to combine two vendors and suggest that they share these stalls on a overcrowded market day.

At this point in the season we are not accepting associate applicants due to limited space. We do encourage you to apply as an Easy Entry vendor, which would allow you to sell on Sunday Tuesday and or Thursday. You may become an Associate member when they is an opening. Also you may only reserve a space when you are invited to become a full market member and when a booth becomes available.

Another concern for Saturday associate vendors without a reserved booth is that if you are given a space for the day it may not come with a table or even be in the pavilion. You may be offered a stall outside the market pavilion without protection from the elements. You will certainly want to become prepared for these situations. This may also mean that electric will not be available to you to run equipment or that you will need to take extra care in maintaining food safety standard, if you are a food vendor.

Please feel free to call if you have any further question or clarification needed at 273-7109.

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