2026 Grinnell Winter Farmers Market Rules & Regulations

CHAMBER REPRESENTATIVES:
Rachael Kinnick: farmersmarket@getintogrinnell.com or 641-236-6555

RULES POLICY:
Rules are implemented and enforced by Chamber Representatives. The aforementioned individuals are the final arbiter of all market happenings. Failure to comply with the following rules will mean the loss of the vendor's privilege to sell at the Grinnell Farmers Market. Requests for rule changes must be made via a written request to farmersmarket@getintogrinnell.com or sent to the offices at 833 4th Ave. Adjustments are not guaranteed. Rules are adjusted annually.

WHERE:
The Grinnell Winter Farmers Market, overseen by the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce, is a 100% producer market. The market is a community based event where the Poweshiek County community is able to purchase quality items that are home grown or handcrafted in Iowa and a place for area growers and handcrafters to sell their wares. Sale of antiques, used items, unoriginal craft, pets, poultry, or livestock will not be allowed.

The 2026 Winter Farmers Market will be on Friday, November 20 from 5-8 PM, Saturday, November 21 market from 9:30AM-Noon. As well as on Friday, December 4 from 4-7PM and Saturday, December 5 from 9:30AM-Noon. The Winter Farmers Market on November 20 and 21 will be held at Grinnell United Methodist Church at 916 5th Avenue. The Winter Farmers Market on December 4 and 5 will be held at the Weingart '61 Civic Innovation Pavilion in Grinnell College's Renfrow Hall at 1021 Broad Street.

MARKET SESSIONS:
Weekend 1:
Session 1: Friday, November 20, 2026 from 5-8 PM.
Session 2: Saturday, November 21, 2026 from 9:30 AM-Noon
Weekend 2:
Session 3: Friday, December 4, 2026 from 4-7 PM.
Session 4:Saturday, December 5, 2026 from 9:30 AM-Noon

FEES:
Grinnell Farmers Market FULL TIME vendors will pay a fee of $15.00 **per session**
Grinnell Farmers Market PART TIME vendors will pay a fee of $20.00 **per session**
Vendors who were not associated with the 2026 Grinnell Farmers Market season will pay a fee of $35.00 **per session**

REFUNDS:
- No refunds will be made.

MARKET INFORMATION:

FULL TIME VENDORS:

Vendors wishing to participate in the Winter Farmers Market should submit their application on the website: grinnellchamber.org/events/winter_farmers_market/. Spaces are reserved on a first come, first served basis. If you have questions, please contact the Grinnell Chamber Office at 641-236-6555 or email events@getintogrinnell.com. Reservations and payments may be made online, in person or by mail before November 16, 2026. Checks should be made payable to the Grinnell Chamber of Commerce. **Your spot is not reserved until application AND payment have been received.**

Vendors who wish to have stalls next to each other should denote that on their applications. If two different vendors wish to share a stall space they should sign up at the same time and pay the fee for the number of stalls requested. We require an application on file for each vendor.

STALLS:

All vendors are given a 12' X 12' stall; if a vendor would like to request a second stall, they can indicate their desire on their application (fee will be applied if granted). If there are any vendors that require less than 12' X 12' space, please denote this on the application as well. Finally, there will be a limited number of spaces available with electricity. You must note this on your application. This is subject to a fee. No generators are allowed.

ASSIGNMENT OF STALLS:

Stalls will be assigned by chamber staff's discretion with the focus of highlighting the variety of products and ensuring vendors who have the same product are not placed right next to one another. Vendors are solely responsible for the set up AND tear down of their stall. **If a vendor needs electrical access, this should be noted on application. Limited electrical stalls are available and we cannot guarantee they will be granted.**

TERMINATION POLICY:

A verbal warning will be given by Chamber Staff if rules have been violated. If the problem continues after the verbal warning has been issued, the vendor may be dismissed from the market as deemed necessary by Chamber Representatives. Refunds will not be made to vendors dismissed from the market.

SET UP:

Vendors may begin setting up at 2PM on Friday November 20 and December 4, and no earlier than 8AM on Saturday, November 21 and December 5. Specific unloading and parking instructions will be sent out to all participating vendors.

NOTICE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC & MEDIA RECORDING:

When you attend the Grinnell Farmers Market or a Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce event, photo, audio, and video recording may occur. By attending this event, you consent to such recording media and your image and likeness being used in connection with the promotion, advertising, and/or marketing of the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Grinnell Farmers Market and the Grinnell Community. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the Chamber at 641-236-6555.

GENERAL INFORMATION & RULES (applicable to ALL vendors):

1. Items for sale must be 100% grown or made by the vendor (including immediate family members (spouse, grandparents, parents, siblings and children) and employees). All items must be made or grown in Iowa. No exceptions will be made. For non-food items, inputs may be purchased but the final product must be your own creation. For example, knitters may knit sweaters – the yarn would qualify as the input.

2. Vendors may begin to set up their tables as noted above; however, no sales will be made until the start of market.
    a. If a pre-sale was made at a prior market (payment was exchanged), a customer may pick up the product ahead of market; however, if no payment was exchanged at the time of order, the product may not be picked up and paid for until after the start of market.

3. Vendors shall furnish their own tables and chairs (this does not apply to the second weekend of market). Vendors are responsible for keeping their areas clean. The chamber has a limited number of tables and chairs that can be rented daily for a market. The vendor will be responsible for picking up the rentals from the office and transporting them themselves or can additionally pay a delivery fee to the rentals to be brought and picked up from their stall. Vendors will be responsible for setting up and taking down their rentals and returning them to the Chamber office.
    a. Table $10.00
    b. Chair $5.00
    c. Tent $25.00
    d. Delivery Fee $20.00

4. Each vendor is responsible for filing state sales tax permits where applicable. Generally, edibles are exempt if they are not sold as food for immediate consumption. Flowers, plants, and handcrafted items are subject to tax. Contact the Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance at phone number 515-281-3114 with any questions or forms. There is no fee for the Farmers Market Permit.

5. Vendors must provide an email address to be used for communications from Chamber and Market Managers.

6. All vendors will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement.

7. Any fundraising activities or promotions advertised at a market booth or registered for a market booth must have a direct, local tie for support. All fundraising efforts must align with the market's mission and values, and organizers must provide proof of their non-profit status and location upon request. Non-profit organizations must comply with any local, state, or federal regulations related to fundraising and charitable activities.

FOOD VENDOR RULES:

1. Allowable food items can include fresh locally grown vegetables, fruit, garden produce, home-made baked goods, fruit jams and jellies (acceptable if listed on the Code of Federal Regulations Title 21, Part 150), honey, and eggs if kept at 45 degrees or less. Specific items which cannot be sold include non-Iowa grown fresh fruits and/or vegetables, jams and jellies not listed in the CFR 20.150, homemade butter or cottage cheese, raw milk. Soft pies and bakery products with custard or cream fillings, meats and meat products may only be sold if licensed by and following rules set by the state. See "Home Foods Processing Establishment License" for more details about temperature controlled foods

2. Products purchased for resale at the market are not allowed, i.e. no brokering. Site inspections may occur at any point during the season. The vendor shall provide direction to the production site and grant permission for any inspection of the production site within 72 hours of notification by the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce.

3. All sales must be by container, item or by weight. Scales must be state certified, and if a vendor sells by weight the certified NTEP scale should be present at market. Certification card for scale should be present and a sticker must be on the scale. Contact the Iowa Department of Weights and Measures, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship at 515-725-1493 with questions.

4. Vendors shall display signage at their booths or on individual items to identify each available item by price, unit and/or weight. This is mandatory for all baked good items as well and should include an ingredient list, listing from most to least. More details under Cottage Foods section.

5. TEMP CONTROLLED FOODS: Anyone wishing to sell temperature control for safety foods needs to have a "Home Foods Processing Establishment License" issued by the Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals; 515-281-6538. A copy of this license must be provided to chamber staff prior to the start of market season.
    a. Classification of foods according to the DIA can be found at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t573biXUcqbpaPqFbJNpZH8CzfgrdoMP_xYrSQkpfkg/edit?gid=99813278#gid=99813278
    b. Visit here to learn more about an HFPE license: https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-hotels/license-information or call 515-281-6538

6. COTTAGE FOODS: Cottage foods are permitted to be sold market with the following requirements:
    a. TYPES: Classification of foods according to the DIA can be found at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t573biXUcqbpaPqFbJNpZH8CzfgrdoMP_xYrSQkpfkg/edit?gid=99813278#gid=99813278
    b. CERTIFICATION: Vendors are REQUIRED to complete the Home-Based Kitchen Operations: Regulations and Food Safety Course through Iowa State University Extension & Outreach.

i. Certificate of completion must be presented to chamber staff prior to being accepted into the 2024 market season. Course can be found at https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/home-food-operations
ii. This course has been updated to include HF 2431. Courses completed PRIOR to July 1, 2022 will NOT be accepted.
iii. Vendor is responsible for the course fee.

c. REQUIRED PAPERWORK: Any vendors selling cottage food products that require batch logs must have logs available at each market for inspection from chamber staff or market managers.
d. LABELING REQUIREMENTS: All cottage food vendors must meet the following labeling requirements ON EACH PRODUCT.
    i. Information to identify the name and address, phone number or email address of the person preparing the food;
    ii. The common name of the food;
    iii. The ingredients of the cottage food in descending order of predominance. This includes ingredients of and prepackaged food used to create the food to be sold (ex: all the ingredients of a canned pie filling must be listed on the pie ingredient list)
    iv. The following statement: "This product was produced at a residential property that is exempt from state licensing and inspection.";
    v. If the cottage food contains one or more major food allergens, an additional allergen statement must be included on the label identifying each major allergen contained in the food by the common name of the allergen; and
    vi. If the food is home-processed and/or home-canned ex: pickles, vegetables, or fruits permitted under this section, breads, spices, freeze dried items, etc the date that the food was processed and canned must be on the label
e. Find more information about Cottage Food can be found here: https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-hotels/cottage-foods#prohibited-items

7. Food Trucks/Trailers MUST present a copy of your license from the Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals. (There are 4 different licenses available).
    a. Mobile Food Unit License ($250), Farmers Market License ($150), Annual Temporary Food Establishments ($200), or Single-Event Temporary Food Establishment ($50)
        i. Each of these licenses offer different durations of validity and processes to apply.
        ii. Chamber does not have ability to assist in food truck licensing, please direct all questions to 515-725-5342 or FCS-Licensing@dia.iowa.gov
        iii. Vendor is responsible for licensing fee, in addition to market vendor fees. Copy of license must be presented at time of application.
    b. Space for food trucks is limited, preference will be given to full time vendors. Please inquire about desired dates prior to registering for market to ensure space

is available on your dates. Date inquiries should be made by calling the Chamber offices at 641-236-6555.

c. Food trucks over 24 feet long may not be eligible for market due to our set up- exceptions may be made based on market attendance. Please inquire.

8. WIC-certified vendors shall not accept IFMNP vouchers for the following: non-locally grown fresh fruits, and/or vegetables, processed fruit or vegetables such as fruit jams/jellies, popcorn, juices/ciders, baked goods of any kind, including fruit pies and breads, dried beans/peas, flowers, honey (accepted under senior program), herbs, eggs, ornamental corn, miniature pumpkins, gourds, nuts and plants. For more reference, please look at the backs of said checks before you make a sale. If you have any questions regarding this, contact WIC and Senior Programs specialist at 515-242-5015.
    a. FMNP Certificate training will take place at ISU Extension on March 26 & April 30 from 9-10 AM at the Extension office (114 S 3rd St in Montezuma). Call 641-623-5188 or email aalathia@iastate.edu to register.

9. Vendors wishing to give free product samples at market should follow food-safety precautions, including proper washing and cleanliness (e.g. wearing gloves) to handle these foods.

13. Recycled egg cartons must clearly display vendor name and contact information on all cartons.

14. Products sold by vendors are required to be fresh and of upstanding quality. Any vendor who is found to be selling expired, undercooked or moldy products may be asked to withdraw products, could be asked to leave and may not be eligible to return to market. No refunds will be granted if a vendor is asked to leave due to quality issues.

15. Per updates from the FDA to Code of Federal Regulations Part 150 -- Fruit Butters, Jellies, Preserves, and related products, jams and jellies can only use Nutritive Carbohydrate Sweeteners to sweeten products. Nutritive Sweeteners include; Agave, Fructose, High-Fructose Corn Syrup, and Honey. Vendors cannot use non-nutritive sweeteners including acesulfame-K, aspartame, neotame, saccharin, sucralose, and stevia or other non-approved ingredients.
    a. More information on Code 150: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfcfr/cfrsearch.cfm?fr=150.160
    b. More Information Nutritive Carbohydrate Sweeteners: https://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/nutritive-and-nonnutritive-sweetener-resources

16. **LICENSING RESOURCES** Here is a list of all different licenses offered, their application process, associated fees and products covered https://dia.iowa.gov/food/business-licensing

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Food trucks/mobile food units are required to carry and maintain commercial general liability of a minimum of $500,000 per occurrence.

- The Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce must be listed as an additional insured.
- A copy of insurance certificate is required on-file in order to participate at market.

Cottage Foods/Home Foods Processing Establishments (HPFE) are strongly encouraged, though not required, to hold a commercial general liability policy with a minimum of $100,000.

- If a vendor obtains this policy, they shall provide a copy to the market.
- *Under this policy, it is noted that a vendor is fully liable should an issue arise.*

PET FOOD/TREAT RULES:

1. Homemade pet food and treats must be approved through the USDA prior to selling at the market. Recipes and ingredient lists will need to be available to customers at time of purchase. Proof of approval must be submitted to the chamber.
    a. More information about Pet Food Registration in Iowa: https://iowaagriculture.gov/sites/default/files/feeds/Commercial%20Fertilizer/Pet%20Food%20Summary.pdf

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION & OTHER VENDOR RULES:

1. All General Information & Rules Apply

2. Nonprofit organizations - who have a direct tie to Grinnell or the surrounding area - may sell fundraising items at the discretion of the market management. The non-profit organization will be responsible for paying a market fee and is subject to the rules and regulations of the market, the exception of 'Made in Iowa' may be made with approval of a Chamber Representative.

3. Musicians, with the approval of the Chamber Representative, will be allowed to play for tips. They will not be charged a market fee.

4. The Chamber reserves the right to waive the fee at its discretion for a non-profit providing education or entertainment for customers.

5. Political parties will not be allowed to promote individual parties/candidates at market. General voter registration is allowed. See Chamber Hosted Elected Official policy for more details.

Organizational Contact Information:

- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship: 515-281-5321 or weightsandmeasures@iowaagriculture.gov
- Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance: 515-281-3114
- Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals: 515-725-5342
- Consumable Hemp - Iowa Department of Inspection & Appeals: 515-829-8899
- USDA, Food & Drug Administration: 515-284-4035
- WIC & Senior Programs: 515-242-6239
- Food Truck/Mobile Food Units: 515-281-6538