

## FAQs for vendors

Disclaimer: We do not have a complete list of every kind of license, permit or inspection you may need--- too many different products. Vendors at Jasper Farmers Market are responsible for making sure that they meet all federal, state and local requirements for the products they sell.

Licensing of kitchens is done through the Texas Department of State Health Services. Under Texas Cottage Food Law, you may not need to have a licensed kitchen if your products are labeled as the state requires. More information is available from the AgriLife office or online at:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/foods/faq.shtm>

Texas Department of State Health Services  
Division of Regulatory Services, Environmental and Consumer Safety Section,  
PO Box 149347, Mail Code 1987  
Austin, Texas 78714-9347 Ph: 512-834-6753

### Other useful information:

[www.pickyourown.org](http://www.pickyourown.org) – how to sell at farmers market, how to harvest, handle and store produce, canning.

**Is nutrition labeling required?** Generally small producers are exempt from nutrition labeling requirements provided there are no nutrition claims on the label or in your advertising. Exemptions apply to producers who have fewer than 100 full-time employees and sell fewer than 100,000 units of a particular food in any 12-month period, and who sell direct to consumers. **This exemption does not apply if you are purchasing from someone else and then reselling the product.**

**What must be on Cottage Food labels?** – specific information and wording that includes: name and physical address of the operation, common or usual name of product, any major food allergens that are present in the food (e.g. eggs, nuts, soy, peanuts, milk or wheat) and the following statement: *This food is made in a home kitchen and is not inspected by the Department of State Health Services or a local health department.*

*Serving food to be eaten or sampled at market: Vendors should have a Food Handlers certificate.*

**I don't use pesticides or herbicides, so does that mean I can use the "organic" label?** No, read more at: <http://www.pickyourown.org/organic.htm> The U.S. Department of Agriculture has set national standards. USDA's National Organic Program regulates the standards for any farm, wild crop harvesting, or handling operation that wants to sell an agricultural product as organic. A third party evaluates producers, processors, and handlers to determine whether they conform to organic standards....

[www.growingformarket.com](http://www.growingformarket.com) -- info on everything from greenhouses, managing pests, creating spreadsheets to track your crops, you name it. They have a free booklet you can download and print:

### Selling at Farmers Markets

It is up to each vendor to determine how they market their products and to be sure they comply with all rules and regulations regarding their product or produce.

Jasper Farmers Market Association c/o Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
271 E. Lamar, Suite 101 — Jasper TX 75951 409-384-3721



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