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Approved Sales at Temporary Events and Farmer's Markets

Temporary Events

A Temporary Food Establishment License is required (unless noted*) "Temporary food establishment" means a food establishment that operates for a period of no more than 14 consecutive days in conjunction with a single event or celebration. An "event or celebration" is a significant occurrence or happening sponsored by a civic, a business, an educational, a government, a community, or veterans' organization and may include athletic contests. For example, an event does not include a single store's grand opening or sale.

****Examples of Temporary Events:** Fairs, Festivals, Craft Shows, Vendor Fairs

Food items approved for sale at temporary events:

- Food items prepared on site, from start to finish, the day of the event in the licensed food stand
- Food items prepared off site from the event, in the food stand owner's licensed facility, and transported to event (receipts for prepared foods may be required)
- All food provided at temporary events must come from an approved (licensed) facility
 - Exemptions:
 - Nonprofit organization are allowed to sell non-potentially hazardous foods from unapproved (unlicensed) facilities

****A Temporary Food Establishment License is not required for sales of commercially prepared prepackaged non-potentially hazardous foods (foods that do not require refrigeration) that are produced in a licensed facility.**

Food is defined as: a raw, cooked, or processed edible substances, ice, beverages, or ingredients used or intended for use or for sale in whole or in part for human consumption, or chewing gum.

**** For more information regarding food vending at temporary events, please read the Temporary Food Operation Guide**

Farmer's Markets

"Farmers market" means a marketplace which operates seasonally, principally as a common market for Iowa-produced farm products on a retail basis for consumption elsewhere.

Food items approved for sell at a farmers market (without a Farmer's Market License):

- Fresh fruits and vegetables which are whole and uncut
- Bakery products which are not potentially hazardous. These products include only the following items: breads, cakes, doughnuts, pastries, buns, rolls, cookies, biscuits, and pies (except meat pies). The following products are examples of bakery products that are potentially hazardous and *cannot* be sold at farmers market without a license: soft pies, custard filled products and cream filled products.
- Fresh Wholesome Shell Eggs
- Honey (products containing honey would have to be individually evaluated)
- Non-potentially hazardous food products: products that do not require refrigeration. These products can be prepared in the home, to be sold for consumption off-the-premise. Some examples of products that can be prepared in the home for direct sale to consumer customers include: jams, jellies, candies and dried noodles. (Only jams and jellies that meet the Standard of Identity for jams and jellies specified in [21 CFR Part 150](#) are exempt from licensing at a Farmer's Market)
- Home Canned fruits and vegetables are not allowed to be sold at a Farmer's Market unless they are produced in a licensed kitchen.
- Foods prepared using a specialized process are not allowed to be sold at a Farmer's Market unless they are produced in a licensed kitchen.

**Food sales requiring a Farmers Market License include prepared foods which require temperature control for food safety. All ingredients (including eggs) used in food preparation must come from a licensed and approved source, with the exception of honey and whole uncut fruits and vegetables. A Farmer's Market License is an annual license which allows a vendor to sell potentially hazardous foods at Farmer's Markets in the County that it is issued for. If the vendor operates at Farmer's Markets across various Counties, then a Farmer's Market license must be obtained for each County.

Other Licenses that may be required to sell food:

- Food Establishment License- covers Food Service, Retail Food, and Mobile Food licenses
- Food Processing Plant License
- Home Bakery License

** For more information regarding food vending at Farmer's Markets, please reference the [Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 481 – 30](#) and the [Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 481-31](#)

**Contact your local Regulatory Authority for licensing requirements:
<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-and-consumer-safety-bureau>