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ESTD MIDLAND AREA 1945

# FARMERS MARKET

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## 2026 Rules & Regulations

### Season Dates:

Open EVERY Wednesday and Saturday:

Saturday, May 2 – Saturday, October 31

Season extension: Saturdays, November 7, 14, 21

### Hours:

May – October 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

November 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 NOON

*The Midland Area Farmers Market is operated by the 501(c)(4) non-profit:*

*The Midland Business Alliance of Midland, Michigan.*

### *Market Contact Information:*

**Market Director:** Emily Lyons  
(she/her)

Office phone: 989.839.9901

email: [elyons@mbami.org](mailto:elyons@mbami.org)

**Market Manager:** Chad Andres  
(he/him)

Market Cell (seasonal): 989.948.0071

email: [farmersmarket@mbami.org](mailto:farmersmarket@mbami.org)

## 1. HOW TO BECOME A VENDOR AT MIDLAND AREA FARMERS MARKET

Midland Area Farmers Market (MAFM) will accept applications from **January 26 – April 11, 2026**.

Read this document: It will tell you everything you need to know about selling at MAFM and help you determine if MAFM is the right fit for you.

Complete & Submit Vendor Application and all required licenses: Applications are submitted online via the Vendor Portal. Include supplemental materials such as photographs, promotional materials or samples (when appropriate).

Decision Process: All vendors with applications submitted by March 27 will be approved or denied by April 8. Notifications will be e-mailed to each applicant. Vendor applications submitted after March 27 will be notified of acceptance or denial no later than April 20.

## 2. VENDOR CATEGORIES/DEFINITIONS

A vendor is an individual or business that leases space in the Market. MAFM currently leases to vendors in the following categories:

FARMER: A vendor that grows 100% of their own products, AND who owns, leases or operates a farm, dairy, orchard, greenhouse, nursery, poultry farm or raises livestock. This includes those who produce products made completely or predominantly of ingredients and materials grown on or gathered from the vendor's farm, dairy, orchard, garden, greenhouse, nursery, apiary or forest.

FARMER/WHOLESALE: A vendor that grows less than 100% but more than 50% of their own products, AND who owns, leases or operates a farm, dairy, orchard, greenhouse, nursery, poultry farm or raises livestock. This includes those who produce products made completely or predominantly of ingredients and materials grown on or gathered from the vendor's farm, dairy, orchard, garden, greenhouse, nursery, apiary or forest. No out-of-state or out-of-country products allowed.

SPECIALTY/OTHER: A vendor that processes food items for sale. Specialty food products must be produced in a commercially licensed kitchen or made under Cottage Food Law as specified by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Generally, the items must be manufactured or finished with ingredients grown in Michigan. The specialty category includes items like processed produce, baked goods, dairy, eggs, jams, jellies, honey, syrup, sauces, oils and coffee. Please note we do not accept applications for cotton candy or syndicated products. No Multi-Level Marketing products allowed.

FOOD TRUCK/CART/TENT: Any vendor that sells items prepared for immediate consumption on or off the premises via a food truck, food tent, or food cart must follow local health department rules and regulations and be licensed by the appropriate authority (e.g., Michigan Department of Agriculture, Midland County Health Department). This can include ready-to-eat meals, hot foods, sandwiches, salads, cut fruit, ice cream, coffee or smoothies. Vendors must bring a **SILENT GENERATOR**; this is typically an inverter type generator. There is no electricity access at Dow Diamond. Per OSHA, a silent generator must run at 70 dB or less to be allowed in an outdoor event. The 70 dB register on the meter must be

unmodified and unmuffled. Spaces are roughly 10' x 26'. If a vendor's food truck is larger than this, the vendor will be charged for additional spaces.

ARTISAN: A vendor with handicrafts, homemade or handmade, requiring considerable skill, time and effort from raw materials. Products made from locally sourced clay, wood, yarn, etc. which support agri-business, will be favored. Artisans with products uplifting agriculture, produce, farmers, etc. will be vetted on a case-by-case basis. We welcome Artisans once per month on the second Saturday: May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, and October 10.

MAFM RESERVES THE RIGHT TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF VENDORS AND/OR SPACES LEASED IN ALL CATEGORIES.

### 3. APPLICATION & STALL RENTAL AGREEMENT

Application: All potential and current vendors must apply annually. All vendors will be charged a one-time, non-refundable, \$30 application fee. Applications will not be processed without the \$30 fee. All vendors must have formal, written acceptance prior to selling at Market.

Stall Rental Agreement: All vendors must sign Vendor Agreements annually.

2026 Stall Pricing:

Daily: Farmer/Specialty Producer/Artisan \$35; Food Truck/Wholesaler \$45

\*Annual: Farmer/Specialty Producer \$550; Food Truck \$700; Wholesaler \$750

**\*All vendors participating in November must pay a daily rate of \$40.** This provides up to two stalls per vendor.

Right of Refusal: MAFM reserves unconditional discretion to accept or reject any MAFM vendor application.

A vendor will be permitted to have a maximum of three stalls per Market Day.

### 4. PRODUCT MIX/ADDITIONS

Creating a robust shopping environment with an interesting and diverse product mix is central to MAFM's success. MAFM does not offer exclusive rights to any vendor to sell any specific product. Market customers generally benefit from having a choice. However, if MAFM believes the number of vendors offering the same or similar products is reasonably meeting consumer demand and, after considering various market factors, it is believed that additional vendors of the specific product would not benefit the market, the selling of duplicate products by a new or returning vendor may not be allowed.

MAFM does not set pricing. Each vendor is expected to establish fair retail value for their products.

### 5. ATTENDANCE

Annual vendors are required to attend at least one-half of the regular season or 25 Market days (May-October) and are expected to be at Market for as much of the season as possible, depending on their

product(s). Every Market Day, each vendor must be in their assigned stall space or have notified the Market Manager of a delay by 6:30 a.m. May – October and by 8:30 a.m. in November. If a vendor is not in their assigned stall space and has not notified the Market Manager of a delay by the required time, that vendor's stall will be forfeited.

A vibrant market depends on the presence of our vendors. Vendors are expected to bring enough inventory to sell throughout the entire Market Day. Vendors may not leave early for any reason (emergency exception). Doing so is dangerous. If you sell out, you must have signage to reflect as such and encourage Market Goers to come back the next Market Day. **Moving vehicles within the Market proper between 6:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. is strictly prohibited.**

Any modification to attendance needs to be communicated with the Market Manager in advance, and a safe solution will be sought that accommodates all parties.

A vendor who misses three consecutive, unexcused Market days will lose their reserved space without refund. This applies to **ALL** vendors.

Vendors who need to modify their approved market dates must make changes via the vendor portal. Failure to utilize the vendor portal may result in an unexcused absence. Daily vendors will not always receive their preferred stalls, and the Market Manager has full discretion in making stall assignments. Vendors will be contacted by MAFM at the end of the day prior to the Market Day with the vendor's stall assignment.

## 6. STALL PAYMENT

Payment of stall fees may be made by cash, check or credit card.

Daily vendors are expected to arrive at Market with stall already paid for online.

**All** vendor payments are non-refundable.

**Annual vendors must be paid in full by 12 NOON on Friday, April 24, 2026.**

## 7. LICENSING & REGULATIONS

Vendors are responsible for compliance with all required city, county, state, and federal regulations, licenses, permits, and certifications to sell products at the MAFM. **Each vendor must include, as a part of the application packet, a copy of each pertinent license, permit, and certification for the products to be sold.** Applications are not considered complete without the inclusion of all applicable licenses, permits, and certifications. Decisions on applications will be withheld if not completed. A Sales Tax License is required for those selling non-food items.

## 8. INSURANCE

Each vendor must carry general liability insurance in an amount of no less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence. The policy shall name Midland Business Alliance as an additional insured. A copy of the Certificate of Insurance (**Accord 25 form required**) must be uploaded into the vendor portal upon the vendor's receipt of their acceptance. If the policy expires during the market season, the vendor

is responsible for providing the Market staff with a copy of the renewed insurance policy at the time of policy expiration. Vendors without the required insurance coverage will not be allowed to sell at Market. Vendors shall maintain vehicle insurance and any other insurance required by law. It is also recommended that vendors carry product liability coverage for the sale of products at a farmers market.

Neither the MBA nor Dow Diamond assumes liability for injuries or damage incurred by vendors while at Market.

## 9. MARKET CONDUCT

Vendors are independent entrepreneurs with a common stake in creating a vibrant marketplace. MAFM expects market vendors and their staff to conduct themselves in a way that contributes to creating a positive shopping experience for our customers. Common courtesy and respect are essential to the success of MAFM. MAFM expects market vendors to be honest and to conduct themselves in a courteous and friendly manner with other vendors, Market staff, and customers. Activities that violate these market rules; represent abnormal sales practices (e.g., dumping product at impractically low costs to influence competition or fixing prices between vendors); abuse of customers or other vendors; or create hazardous or hostile conditions are not acceptable at Market. The Market Manager will endeavor to immediately resolve issues that arise from complaints by customers or other vendors that represent an immediate safety hazard or significant detriment to the running of the Market. If the issue cannot be immediately resolved, the Market Manager will consult with the Market Director to determine a course of action. If needed, the Market Director will formally review the circumstances and make a final determination as to disciplinary action. The determination of appropriate disciplinary action shall be made at the sole discretion of the MAFM.

“Unacceptable activities” include but are not limited to:

- Unsafe conditions or hazards created by the vendor in the sales area.
- Positioning anything in such a way that it impedes access to other vendors.
- Creating any condition or acting in any way on Market property that detracts from the Market’s appearance, overall quality or reputation.
- Smoking/vaping, of any product, within 25’ of Market property.
- Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on Market property.
- Hawking or calling customers to a booth or using pressured sales tactics.
- Having live animals, other than service animals, on Market property.
- Engaging in political advocacy on Market property.
- Violating the harassment, non-discrimination and /or offensive language and signage policies as defined herein.
- Giving away, trading or sale of any species of *Cannabis*.
- Voicing criticism of a fellow vendor’s products, stand, etc.
- Failing to treat Market staff with respect.
- Packing up prior to 1 p.m.
- Driving within the Market between 6:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

## 10. WEATHER

The MAFM is a rain-or-shine Market, meaning vendors are expected to participate even during rain or snow. In the case of inclement weather, the Market Manager and Market Director may make the determination to cancel Market or close Market early. In the case of other weather-related disruptions, vendors should look for email or social media communication or contact the MBA for clarification.

## 11. ALTERNATIVE CURRENCIES

MAFM is proud to accept several forms of “alternative currencies.” These programs are important to both the customers who benefit from additional access to fresh food and to the vendors that sell at Market. Rules and regulations vary from program to program. We recommend all eligible vendors participate in these programs, but do not mandate participation.

Bridge Card/SNAP: MAFM can accept Bridge Card and other SNAP benefits through a token distribution system at the Isabella Bank booth. Instructions and applications to accept Bridge Card tokens are available from the Market Director or Market Manager.

All participating vendors will receive and must display a sign to notify customers that Bridge Card/SNAP tokens are accepted.

Double Up Food Bucks: MAFM has received a grant from Fair Food Network to offer a program that provides additional funds which Bridge Card/SNAP users can spend to purchase Michigan-grown fruits and vegetables.

Double Up Food Bucks runs from May 2 – November 21, 2026, and goes along with MAFM’s regular Bridge Card program. Customers who purchase any amount of Bridge Card tokens can double their benefits, up to \$20, **for Michigan-grown, whole fruits and vegetables (including mushrooms), cut herbs, herb plants and food-producing plants.**

Prescription For Health: Program specifics currently pending.

Other programs may be announced from time to time.

Vendors will be reimbursed monthly, by direct deposit, for participation in any “alternative currency.” All agreements must be on file with the Market Director prior to participation. If a vendor accepts incorrect “alternative currency” in error, the vendor will not be reimbursed.

***Vendors are prohibited from accepting alternative currencies if the vendor has not been approved to do so. Vendors are expected to educate their employees on alternative currency and eligibility.***

**MAFM reserves the right to immediately fine, suspend and/or terminate vendors if MAFM observes, or receives evidence of, failure to abide by any of the program rules or intentions.**

## 12. VENDOR SPACE/STALL

Vendors may occupy only the area to which they have been assigned and for which they have paid a fee. All vendor merchandise, equipment, supplies, marketing items, and signage must be contained within the vendor's stall area and must be kept clear of walkways. Sub-leasing space is prohibited. MAFM allows one (1) tent per stall space.

Propane heaters are allowed at Market but must be in good working order and free of odors as determined in the MAFM's sole discretion. Each vendor is encouraged to keep a fire extinguisher in their stall. Open fires are prohibited.

Electrical equipment including (but not limited to) lights, extension cords, fans and equipment used for food prep must be in good working order, as determined at MAFM's sole discretion, and must be kept within rented stall space. MAFM does not provide any electrical equipment.

## 13. VENDOR EMPLOYEES

Vendors' employees must comply with **ALL** Market rules. MAFM will not arbitrate any disputes on wages or working agreements.

## 14. VEHICLES & PARKING

Vendors and their employees are required to leave all nearest parking available for Market Goers. This includes handicapped vendors. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed.

Each vendor may park one vehicle in the Market if it fits completely within that vendor's stall space. MAFM reserves the right to prohibit vehicles in any stall. If more than one vehicle is required, please notify Market staff.

Vehicles that are leaking fluids are not allowed in any stall or elsewhere on Market property. Violators will be fined and not permitted to reenter Market property until proof of vehicle repair has been provided to the Market Manager.

## 15. CLEANLINESS & TRASH HANDLING

Vendors shall maintain all parts of their stalls in a neat and clean fashion. Vendors shall dump all trash in the provided dumpster, located on the perimeter of the space. All cardboard must be broken down, and large items must be crushed.

Stalls must be swept clean at end of day. A fine of \$100 will be imposed to cover the cost of cleaning any dirty stall as deemed necessary in the MAFM's sole discretion.

All produce must come to Market ready for sale; cleaning or washing produce at Market is prohibited.

## 16. PUBLIC SAFETY

Vendors must set up their market stands to minimize public safety hazards from customers and vendors. Product placement and stand set up should be structurally sound and secure to prevent any physical hazard. Shade structures, canopies, and umbrellas must be safely and sufficiently secured from set up to

take down to prevent damage to property or injury to customers or vendors from falling, collapsing, or being blown by the wind. **40 pound weight per tent leg is required for a 10x10' tent.** Tripping hazards in and around stands must be eliminated.

Pets or live animals are prohibited for safety and sanitary reasons. Service animals are the only exception and must be visibly identified.

Bicycles, skateboards and scooters are prohibited on Market property for safety reasons.

If an emergency occurs near a vendor's stall, the vendor must immediately call the Market Cell Phone. If there is no response within 5 minutes, the vendor should call 911. The choice depends on the severity of the circumstance. The vendor must allow emergency personnel to work with the injured and not impede access to them or their removal from Market.

Vendors may not use any type of spray or aerosolize insect repellent within Market.

## **17. MARKET MANAGEMENT**

The Market Manager is responsible for administering and enforcing all MAFM rules and guidelines. In doing so, the Market Manager directs and oversees vendor space assignments, overall market setup, opening and closing of the market, market data collection and information distribution, SNAP token acquisitions, market sponsored educational and entertainment activities, public safety, market cleanup, and other duties required to successfully and safely operate the MAFM. The Market Manager has final authority to resolve issues arising at the Market including, but not limited to, refusing admission of vendors who arrive after Market opening; requesting immediate removal of products not in compliance with Market rules; and/or ejecting vendors not in regulatory compliance or not operating in a safe manner.

## **18. MARKET ENTERTAINMENT & FITNESS ACTIVITIES**

From time to time, Market staff may arrange entertainment at the Market such as singers or other musicians. One stall may be allotted for this activity pending stall availability. The entertainers are not paid by MAFM or charged for space. However, the entertainers may accept tips and may sell music with permission from the Market staff. Market staff may also use one or more stalls for healthy living or fitness-oriented activities that align with the MAFM mission and vision.

## **19. FOOD RESCUE/GLEANING**

Different local agencies pick up extra food from June – October for distribution throughout the County. MAFM vendors are encouraged, but not required, to participate in the end of market gleaning program by donating fresh, usable produce or other foods and products to the nonprofit organizations that will pick up the products at the end of the Market Day.

## **20. PRODUCTS ALLOWED**

All products offered for sale are subject to inspection by MAFM staff, the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, and the USDA.

MAFM allows for the sale of Michigan and U.S. grown high-quality fresh fruits, vegetables, related food items, Cottage Food items, baked goods, animal proteins, plants and flowers. Soaps, body care products, and candles must be handcrafted by using seasonal ingredients from the producer-vendor's farm or another local farm. Any herbs, milk, honey, or other natural products included in the products should be grown by the producer-vendor or purchased directly from another local producer. Candles and soaps should be naturally based from a product grown in the local area (milk, honey, etc., NO soy or other product of unknown origin). MAFM's primary focus is on agri-business and consumable products.

Plants of a known invasive species, including Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), are not permitted. All growers must adhere to applicable Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development licensing requirements, for plant sales at Market. [https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1569\\_16993\\_16998---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1569_16993_16998---,00.html)

Items produced under Cottage Food Law must adhere to State of Michigan labeling guidelines. [https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-50772\\_45851-240577--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-50772_45851-240577--,00.html)

## 21. SIGNS AND WORD USE

Each vendor must have an identification sign of no less than 2' x 3' including farm/business name and location (City/Township) in the vendor's stall every Market Day or the vendor will be subject to a \$50 fine. All signage must be posted before Market opens. No later than 7 a.m. May – October and 9 a.m. in November. Vendors must have signs, boards, tags or labels listing prices of every item for sale.

Vendors with special designations must display certifications of such within the vendor's stall.

Organic: To be labeled and use the term organic, food must be produced according to national organic standards and certified by an inspection agency accredited by the USDA. Certification must be on file with the Market Director and products must be clearly marked.

Naturally Grown: Verbiage used to describe naturally grown produce may be used only for produce grown in accordance with the requirements of the Certified Naturally Grown (CNG) program, with or without certification. Generally, this means produce free from genetically engineered seeds, spray pesticides or synthetic fertilizer.

Farm Fresh, Fresh Picked, Home Grown, Hand Picked: These words are used to describe produce which is grown by and comes directly from the vendor's farm. Signs with these words can only be used if the vendor is the grower of the produce.

Locally Grown, Michigan-Grown: This verbiage describes produce grown in Michigan but not by the vendor. A vendor may use these words to describe produce purchased from other Michigan or local growers and resold (wholesaled) by the vendor.

## 22. SOCIAL MEDIA & MEDIA USE POLICY

The Midland Area Farmers Market and the Midland Business Alliance (MBA) routinely capture and share photos and videos of the Market for promotional purposes. This content may be used on social media, websites, printed materials, and in collaboration with media partners to support market visibility and community engagement. This may include images or video footage of vendor booths, products, signage, and pricing.

By participating in the Market, vendors acknowledge and consent to the possibility of their booths, products, or pricing being photographed or recorded by Market or MBA staff as part of this promotional content.

While the Market and MBA will make reasonable efforts to be mindful of vendor concerns—particularly around pricing differences between platforms, we are not responsible for removing, editing, or altering previously captured or published media. Vendors with specific concerns about future content are encouraged to speak with the Market Manager in advance, and we will do our best to accommodate reasonable requests going forward.

## 23. FINES & PENALTIES

Violations will be issued according to the following schedule:

- 1<sup>st</sup> violation: Written warning and possible fine
- 2<sup>nd</sup> violation: Applicable fine and possible suspension of Market privileges
- 3<sup>rd</sup> violation: Applicable fine and permanent expulsion from the Market

The severity of the violation may alter or escalate penalties. All fines and fees must be paid before a vendor is allowed to return to the Market.

Signage Violation - \$50 each time

Early Breakdown Violation - \$50 each time

Clean Stall Violation - \$100 each time

Driving Within Market Violation - \$100 each time

Improper Tent Weights - \$100 each time

## 24. VENDOR GRIEVANCE POLICY

Vendors with a complaint regarding any Market matter must present the issue on the Grievance Form to the Market Director, who will address the complaint within two weeks. Any grievance about the Market Director may be submitted on the Grievance Form to the CEO of the MBA. Grievance Forms are available from the Market Manager or at the MBA office at 300 Rodd Street in Midland.

## 25. MICHIGAN FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION

MAFM is a Charter Member of the Michigan Farmers Market Association [MIFMA], founded in 2006. For low-cost offerings in educational programs, networking across Farmers Markets and member discounts, all vendors are encouraged to join MIFMA. See [www.mifma.org](http://www.mifma.org) for more information.

## NON-DISCRIMINATION

MAFM and its vendors shall not discriminate against any employee, employment applicant or any member of the public with respect to race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, marital status, handicap or any other status or condition protected by Federal or State law, except where a bona fide occupational qualification exists. Violation of anti-discrimination laws or behavior deemed to violate such laws may result in eviction from the market with no refund.

## HARASSMENT

The MBA/MAFM is committed to providing an environment that is free from harassment. All vendors and their employees are expected and required to abide by this policy. Harassment based upon an individual's race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, marital status, handicap or other status or condition protected by Federal or State law will not be tolerated. Examples of such harassing behavior may include making gestures, threats, derogatory comments or slurs that may be offensive to individuals of a particular protected group; displaying derogatory objects, photographs, cartoons, calendars or posters; and sending messages by letter, note, e-mail or phone that may be offensive to individuals of a particular protected group.

Sexual harassment is behavior of a sexual nature that is unwelcome and offensive to the person or persons it targets. Examples of sexually harassing behavior may include unwanted physical contact, foul language of an offensive sexual nature, sexual propositions, sexual jokes or remarks, obscene gestures, and displays of pornographic or sexually explicit pictures, drawings, or caricatures.

If an individual feels they have been harassed based on their race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, marital status, handicap or other status or condition protected by Federal or State law, they should immediately report the matter to the Market Manager. If that person is not available, or if the individual feels it would be unproductive to inform that person, the individual should immediately contact the Market Director. Once the matter has been reported it will be promptly investigated, and any necessary or advisable corrective action will be taken where appropriate. All complaints of harassment will be handled in as discreet and confidential a manner as possible under the circumstances. MAFM takes harassment very seriously. Anyone found to be harassing, in any form, a staff member, vendor, volunteer, or customer of the market will be subject to disciplinary action including expulsion from the Market.

## PROHIBITION OF OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE & SIGNAGE BY MARKET VENDORS

The MAFM prohibits the display of any hate symbol by staff or vendors while on market property. The determination of whether a symbol is a "hate symbol" shall be made in the sole discretion of the MAFM.

The MAFM also prohibits the use of abusive and offensive language, including profanity, while on market property.

**Midland Area Farmers Market staff reserves the right to amend these rules and regulations at any time, and all vendors will be notified in writing within 7 business days.**