

Vendors under 18 Years of Age have Permit Fee Waived

The future of agriculture in West Virginia is dependent on getting youth involved. At a young age, it is easy to become frustrated with the rules, regulations, and fees associated with vending at a farmers market. Many youth age vendors are deterred from participating in the market and never return. Waiving the fee of the farmers market vendor permit for youths under the age of 18 would allow them to understand the process you must take to be a legal vendor with no associated cost, and would also allow them to legally vend their products. In turn, they would become interested in being a farmers market vendor, and continue to do so even after the age of 18.

Consistency in Rules between County Health Departments

Currently, many county health departments across the state do not have a consistent rule book by which they follow. A rule in one county may not comply with rules in other counties. Since the farmers market vendor permit is valid across county lines, the rules associated with vending at a farmers market should be consistent as well. Farmers market rules and regulations should be the same throughout the state, and based on the Farmers Market Vendor Guide drafted by the West Virginia Food Safety and Defense Task Force.

Please note that these public comments are made on behalf of the West Virginia Farmers Market Association's 54 farmers market members represented across the state of West Virginia. Please contact us with any questions you may have regarding the public comments we have submitted.

Sincerely,

Steve Coleman, WVFMA President



Jeremy Grant, WVFMA Executive Director