

Contact Us

The Colorado Department of Agriculture works closely with farmers' markets statewide to promote consumer protection and fair business practices. For more information, please visit www.colorado.gov/ag/ics, or contact us at the following telephone numbers:

CDA Telephone numbers

Measurement Standards	(303) 477-4220
Farm Products	(303) 477-0054
Egg Program	(303) 477-0093
Feed Program	(303) 477-0081
Meat Program	(303) 477-0293
Markets Division	(303) 239-4114



Division Mission

The Division of Inspection and Consumer Services (ICS) programs provide economic protection to agricultural producers and ensure that Colorado consumers receive products that are safe, properly labeled, and sold in an honest manner. ICS regulates animal feed, fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia, farm products dealers, commodity handlers/grain warehouses, scales and other measuring devices, pricing and package weight accuracy, eggs, food plan operators, custom meat plants and wild game processors.



For More Information :

Colorado Department Agriculture
Inspection & Consumer Services

2331 W. 31st Ave.

Denver, CO 80211

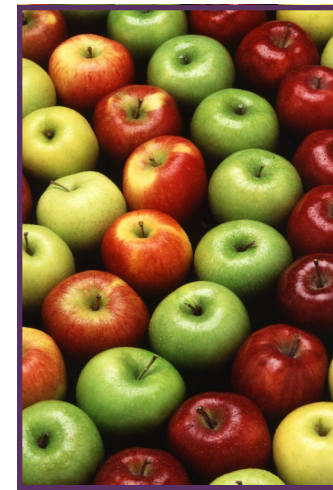
Phone: (303) 477-0076

Fax: (303) 480-9236

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Tips for Farmers' Market Vendors



Division of Inspection & Consumer Services

www.colorado.gov/ag/ics



Colorado Farmers' Markets are an important part of Colorado's agriculture industry. Locally-grown fruits and vegetables draw many Colorado consumers to markets held throughout the state from spring through fall.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is committed to advancing Colorado agriculture, protecting consumers, and promoting an equitable marketplace. At the farmers' market, CDA Inspection and Consumer Services (ICS) field staff work with farmers and vendors to provide the best commodities to consumers on a fair basis that facilitates value comparison. ICS Multiple Inspectors conduct weights and measures, egg, feed, and meat inspections. ICS Farm Products Examiners work with businesses and individuals that resell Colorado farm products.

The CDA Measurement Standards Section, ("Weights and Measures") is responsible for the regulation of commercially used scales, general commodity packaging and labeling, and method of sale requirements.

Scales

Commercially used scales are tested and licensed annually. Vendors who offer commodities for sale by weight must do so over a legal-for-trade scale. All vendors who operate a commercially used device (scale) **MUST** obtain a scale license for that device. All vendors whom at the time of inspection do not have their scale(s) licensed, will

be required to license their devices at the time of inspection. Vendors operating a commercially used device without a valid license, may be subject to regulatory action.

Packaging and Labeling

Prepackaged commodities should be labeled with basic information, including:

- ▲ Product identity, such as "Peaches," unless the customer can easily identify what is in the package.
- ▲ Responsible party information (business name and address), unless the package is made up and sold at the same location.
- ▲ Quantity information.

All required information may be displayed on an adjacent sign. Example, "Peaches - 5 lb." Sellers should be sure packages contain at least the declared amount!

Method of Sale

Commodity method of sale should facilitate value comparison. For instance, potatoes and grapes should be sold by weight, berries should be sold by weight or dry measure; apples and peaches should be sold by weight or count.

Farm Products

Dealers who purchase Colorado farm products for resale or processing must first obtain a Farm Products License. This protects the owners and producers who sell farm products to unscrupulous dealers. A farm product is an unprocessed product of the soil, milk, honey, or hay. Poultry, nursery stock, timber products, grain, beans, and livestock purchased and not resold or processed within 90 days are not considered to be farm products. Grain and bean dealers purchasing for resale must obtain a Commodity Handler License. Contact the Farm Products Program office for further information.

Eggs

Egg producers that sell their own production at farmers markets are exempt from licensing and labeling requirements. Egg sellers who buy eggs for resale must license with the CDA Egg Program and are subject to all labeling and inspection requirements.

Pet Food

Pet treat and pet food manufacturers must be registered with the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Please contact the Feed Program for information on registration, nutrient claims, proper labeling, and other requirements.

Meat

Sellers of meat products should be aware that such products must be USDA inspected and bear the USDA shield. Questions may be addressed to the CDA Meat Program or USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The Colorado Meat Program is primarily involved with meat not inspected by the USDA, such as wild game, and food plan operators such as door-to-door meat sellers.

