



*South Carolina
Department of Agriculture*



Farmers Market Resource Guide

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Why Farmers Markets?



Farmers' markets are an ancient method used by farmers worldwide to sell their crops directly to consumers. Today, U.S. modern food production replaces small farms with brokers and supermarkets. But, buying fresh fruits and vegetables from your local farmers market is good for your community, local farmers, and you.

YOU: When farmers sell directly to you, they can provide you with fruit and vegetables guaranteed to be fresh and vine-ripened, not stored in grocery stores. Prices are also low because there is no middle man to make a profit between you and the farmer.

FARMERS: Selling directly to you also helps local farmers gain extra income and reduce competition from big farmers across the country, and other countries.

COMMUNITY: Farmers market purchases also boost your community, too. Money stays in the community which boosts the economy. And, farmers markets can be social hubs that help ensure healthy and close-knit communities. Meet the people who grow your food and others who appreciate the fresh, and inexpensive, foods just like you.

10 Good Reasons to Shop at the Farmers Market

The North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association (NAFDMA) is a trade association dedicated to supporting the direct selling relationship between you and local farmers. NAFDMA have come up with 10 Good Reasons to Shop Farmers Markets to share with you.



1. **Taste Real Flavors:** This food is as real as it gets - fresh from the farm.
2. **Enjoy the Season:** Shopping and cooking from the farmers market helps you to reconnect with the cycles of nature in our region.
3. **Support Family Farmers:** Small family farms are becoming rare. Buying directly from these farmers gives a better return for their produce and a fighting chance in today's market.
4. **Protect the Environment:** Food in the U.S. travels an average of 1500 miles to get to your plate. Farmers market food is transported shorter distances and the food is grown using methods that reduce pollution to the earth (gases, trash, etc).
5. **Nourish Yourself:** A lot of food in grocery stores is highly processed. In contrast, most food found at the farmers market is minimally processed, and many of our farmers go to great lengths to grow the most nutritious produce possible.

6. **Discover the Spice of Life (Variety):** At the Farmers Market you may find the freshest array of produce you don't see in your everyday supermarket: a rainbow of heirloom tomatoes, white peaches, peanuts, okra, and much, much more. Find out what produce is special to your region!



7. **Promote Humane Treatment of Animals:** At the farmers market you can find meats, cheeses, and eggs from animals that have been raised without hormones or antibiotics, fed natural diets, and have been spared the cramped and unnatural living conditions common to big farm businesses.
8. **Know Where Your Food Comes From:** The same farmers that grow your food, sell their produce to you at the farmers market. Meeting and talking to farmers is a great way to learn more about how, where and when food is grown, and why!
9. **Learn Cooking Tips, Recipes, and Meal Ideas:** Farmers and vendors at the farmers market are often good cooks with plenty of free advice about how to cook the foods they grow and sell.
10. **Connect with Your Community:** The farmers market makes shopping a pleasure rather than a chore. See your farmers market as a community gathering place - a place to meet up with your friends, bring children, or just get a taste of small-town life in the midst of your wonderful city or town.

Farmers Market Vouchers

Another good reason to shop at farmers markets is because many accept vouchers. Many state and local farmers markets accommodate consumers of all income levels. Not only are foods transported to sell at freshest quality and retail price, but many farmers markets accept vouchers/coupons/checks from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children's Program (WIC), Electronic Benefit Transfers/food stamps (EBT), and checks from the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). Just contact your farmers market for details.



South Carolina Agriculture & State Farmers Markets

The state owns and manages 3 regional state farmers markets operated by vendor fees. Come visit your state farmers markets and you can expect admission that is free and open all year long (with the exception of holidays: Thanksgiving and Christmas Days), free parking, gift shops, gardens, greenhouses, fresh produces and low plant and produce prices. The 3 regional markets are located in Columbia, Greenville, and Florence, South Carolina.

Pee Dee State Farmers Market

The **Pee Dee State Farmers Market**, located at 2513 W. Lucas Street in Florence, SC, includes a 45,000 square foot drive-through farmer shed filled to the brim with produce and horticultural products. A log-cabin gift shop complete with gardens and greenhouses, a large selection of statuary products, greenhouse and shade cloth areas featuring tropical plants, flowers and many other items, and a 100-year-old barn which houses a pecan kitchen, potter's shop and a café, are also a part of the Pee Dee Market. A 25,000 square foot facility is also leased to Harvest Hope Food Bank. Vending machines and restrooms are conveniently located on the premises. Admission and parking are free.



West Columbia State Farmers Market

Ranked in the top 10 in the nation for sales volume, the **West Columbia State Farmers Market** gives farmers a place to market directly to consumers, retailers, and wholesalers and gives consumers a place to buy fresh, safe, wholesome produce and colorful plants. The West Columbia Market opened at its present 31 acre location on 3483 Charleston Highway in West Columbia in 2010 and was acquired in 1975 by the state. It includes 500 open stalls, farmer's sheds, over 8 wholesale units, 2 retail units, 3 food establishments, and a US Post Office. With onsite parking and 10-foot sidewalks the new West Columbia Farmers Market is pedestrian friendly. The market site includes additional amenities including an exhibition kitchen, school bus drop off, RV Park, and 400-seat amphitheatre.



Greenville State Farmers Market



The **Greenville State Farmers Market** includes a 14,400 square foot retail sales building and a 10,000 square foot drive-through farmer-trucker shed that have been added to the facility since the Department of Agriculture's acquisition of the market. Both quality and variety are standards for the volume of products offered for sale at the Greenville State Farmers Market. From its beginning as a tailgate produce market along the Court Street curbside in the heart of downtown, the Greenville Farmers Market has been an integral part of the community. Today, the Greenville State Farmers Market continues its proud heritage of service to the Piedmont region of South Carolina.

South Carolina State Farmers Markets

State Farmers Market	Address	Operating Hours	Website/Email	Accepted Vouchers	Telephone
<i>West Columbia</i>	3483 Charleston Hwy. W. Columbia, SC 29172	Monday—Saturday 6 AM – 9 PM Sunday 1 PM – 6 PM	http://www.scda.state.sc.us	WIC EBT	(803) 737-4664
<i>Greenville</i>	1354 Rutherford Rd Greenville, SC 29609	Monday—Saturday 8 AM – 6 PM	http://www.scda.state.sc.us	WIC	(864) 244-4023
<i>Pee Dee</i>	2513 W Lucas St Florence, SC 29501	Monday—Saturday 8 AM – 6 PM	http://www.scda.state.sc.us & http://www.pdfarmersmarket.sc.gov	WIC SFMNP	(843) 665-5154

Note:

EBT = Electronic Benefit Transfers (EBT / food stamps)
 SFMNP = Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program (senior citizen checks/vouchers)
 WIC = Women, Infant & Child (WIC vouchers accepted)

Local Farmers Market Directory (AME Central Conference)

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), there are many farmers markets in South Carolina. You can access locations and contact information for any of these sites by visiting: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets>.

For your convenience, FAN staff has collected information on farmer's markets local to the **AME Central Conference** by local counties: **Calhoun & Orangeburg**, as well as some nearby counties (**Berkeley, Clarendon, & Dorchester**). The following pages list these markets in a table, for your reference.

Note:

SFMNP = Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program (senior citizen checks/vouchers)

WIC = Women, Infant & Child (WIC vouchers accepted)

XING = Crossing (street intersection)



CALHOUN COUNTY		
Market	Calhoun County Farmers Market Independence & Liberty St XING St Matthews, SC 29135	
Contact Info	Charles Davis: (803) 874-2354	
Website/Email		
Facility Description	OPEN-AIR FACILITIES	
Time of Operation	Saturdays, 8 AM—until sold out SEASONAL (May-August)	
Accepted Vouchers	WIC coupons & SFMNP checks	

ORANGEBURG COUNTY		
Market	Ellore Farmers Market Joe Miller Park Old Hwy 6 Ellore, SC 29431	Orangeburg County Farmers Market Orangeburg County Fairground Boulevard SE Orangeburg, SC 29115
Contact Info	Addie Felkel: (803) 897-2663	Molly Smith: (803) 536-9726
Website		
Facility Description	COVERED FACILITY	OPEN-AIR FACILITIES
Time of Operation	Wednesdays & Saturdays, 8 AM – Noon	Wednesdays & Saturdays, 7 AM—until sold out SEASONAL (May-December)
Accepted Vouchers		

NEARBY COUNTY MARKETS: BERKELEY, CLARENDON, DORCHESTER		
Market	BERKELEY Goose Creek Farmers Market Casey Community Center (Goose Creek Recreation Commission) 101 Old Moncks Corner Rd Goose Creek, SC 29401	BERKELEY St Stephen Farmers Market US Hwy 52 & SC 45 XING St Stephen, SC 29479
Contact Person	Tracy Moses: (843) 572-1321	Darlene Borts: (843) 257-4426
Website/Email		
Facility Description	OPEN-AIR FACILITIES	
Times of Operation	Mondays, 3 PM—7 PM SEASONAL	Saturdays, 8 AM—1 PM
Accepted Vouchers	WIC coupons	WIC coupons & SFMNP checks

NEARBY COUNTY MARKETS (continued...)

Market	BERKELEY Moncks Corner Farmers Market Gulledge & Heatley St XING Moncks Corner, SC 29461	CLARENDON Manning Farmers Market SC Hwy 261 East Manning, SC 29102
Contact Person	Danny Mims: (843) 257-2727	Russell Duncan: (803) 435-8429
Website/Email		
Facility Description	OPEN-AIR FACILITIES	OPEN-AIR FACILITIES
Times of Operation	Saturdays, 8 AM–2 PM SEASONAL (June-November)	Wednesdays, 3 PM—6 PM Saturdays, 8 AM—Noon SEASONAL (June—August)
Accepted Vouchers	WIC coupons	WIC coupons & SFMNP checks
Market	DORCHESTER Oakbrook Farmers Market Trolley & Dorchester XING Summerville, SC 29483	DORCHESTER Summerville Farmers Market 218 North Main Street Summerville, SC 29483
Contact Person	Miriam Palmer: (843) 873-0086	Walter Limehouse: (843) 873-3640
Website/Email		
Facility Description	OPEN-AIR FACILITIES	OPEN-AIR FACILITIES
Times of Operation	Thursdays SEASONAL	Saturdays, 8:00 AM – 1 PM SEASONAL (April-October)
Accepted Vouchers		WIC Coupons
Market	DORCHESTER St. George Farmers Market 129 North Parker Avenue St. George, South Carolina 29477	
Contact Person	Debbie Orions: (843) 563-2673	
Website/Email		
Facility Description	OPEN-AIR FACILITIES	
Times of Operation	SEASONAL	
Accepted Vouchers		



References

SC Department of Agriculture

P.O. Box 11280
1200 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 734-2210

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