

FOOD

Missouri is a “home rule” state, meaning that county and municipal governments may enact health ordinances that are more restrictive than state ordinances, but not less restrictive. County and municipal public and environmental health agencies determine which products are approved for sale at farmers’ markets in a given community and how to handle sampling and food demonstrations. The Laclede County Health Department used to prohibit us from distributing free samples of food products. Now they will allow it, but only if the samples are prepackaged, or distributed in a controlled safe and sanitary manner.

Some **non-potentially hazardous foods** such as, but not limited to jams, jellies, cakes, brownies, fruit pies, breads, cookies, candies and dry powder mixes may be produced and sold from a non-inspected kitchen. Custards, cream pies and meringue pies are considered potentially hazardous, and may not be sold. If you have any doubt as to whether a product is allowed, check with the market managers or the Laclede County Health Department.

Food items must be labeled with the name and address of the person manufacturing the product, common name of the product, name of all the ingredients, net weight of the product and the statement “This product has not been inspected by the Department of Health and Senior Services”. You may use your business name rather than your personal name on the label only if the business is registered with the State of Missouri.

Other home canned items besides jams and jellies are only allowed if the producer has their process reviewed by a process authority, completes a Better Process Control School and operates in a facility that meets requirements of all applicable regulations. Contact the DHSS Manufactured Foods Program at (573)751-6095.

Honey bottled in the home may be sold as long as annual gross sales do not exceed \$50,000.00. The honey must be labeled with the name and address of the person preparing it, the common name and the name of all the ingredients. Honey must be sold by weight, and the weight must be included on the label. It is recommended that honey sellers include this additional statement on their label “Honey is not recommended for infants less than twelve (12) months of age”.

Vegetables and fruits must be sold whole, uncut and unpeeled.

Unless you are operating in an inspected facility, the only freeze-dried products you can sell are candies.

Sellers of **eggs** require a Missouri Egg License, available from The Weights, Measures and Consumer Protection Division of the Missouri Department of Agriculture. To obtain a complete copy of Missouri Egg Laws and Regulations, call the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Division of Weights, Measures & Consumer Protection at (573)751-5639, or

visit their website at <http://agriculture.mo.gov/weights/rules.php>. Eggs must be held at a maximum temperature of no greater than 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

Meat and poultry sold at a farmers' market must be slaughtered and processed in either a USDA or Missouri inspected facility and labeled as such. It must be kept frozen. There are multiple poultry exemptions that may apply to poultry producers. Contact the Department at (573)522-1242 for exemption details.

There are state restrictions regarding the sale of **live poultry**. To obtain those requirements, contact the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Division at (573)751-3377.

Anyone wishing to produce or sell **pet (dog or cat) treat or feed** in the state of Missouri must submit a Feed License Application, pay a \$25 inspection fee and file a Product Listing Form. All feed for animals must be clearly labeled in accordance with the Missouri Pet Food Regulations. For questions and further information, contact Missouri Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Feed, Seed and Treated Lumber at (573)751-4310.

The sale of **Raw milk and raw milk products** is permitted only when the purchase point of origin is at the farm or it is delivered directly to the purchasing individual for their own use. They cannot be offered for direct sale at the farmers' market. Sellers may only provide these products to purchasers who have ordered them in advance.