

Additional Information: Apples, Eggs, Honey, Labeling, Laws, Nursery Stock, Organic Products, and Quality of Produce

Apples:

Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Jonathan, Rome, Newtown Pippin, McIntosh, and Granny Smith apple varieties may only be sold after the Agricultural Commissioner has determined that they are mature and “released” them. Apple orchards throughout the County of Sonoma are sampled prior to picking and tested for maturity. Call the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office to find out if the variety you wish to sell has been released.

Gravenstein apples are considered mature when their soluble solids level reaches 10.5%.

All other varieties of apples must be “properly mature”, meaning that at the time of picking, the apple has reached a stage of minimum maturity which ensures palatability and completion of the ripening process.

Additional information on apple quality can be obtained from the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office.

Eggs:

To sell shell eggs at a farmers’ market, growers will need to obtain an egg handler’s registration number from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). There is a \$15 mill fee per year for egg handlers who sell at a certified farmers’ market. Forms to register with CDFA are available from the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office.

Egg cartons **must be marked** with the following information to sell at a certified farmers’ market:

- Name, address, and zip code of packer
- Julian date packed (day of the year) - January 1st would be the first day of the year, and December 31st would be the 365th day of the year
- Sell by date (1 month from date of pack)
- Keep refrigerated
- State handler’s code (obtained from CDFA)
- Size (regulations allow for only 4% underweights in a given size)
- Grade (example Grade AA or Grade A)

Any other markings on a re-used egg carton must be obliterated

Additional information on egg size and grade can be obtained from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Honey:

Producers of honey need to follow the United States Standards for grades of extracted honey. Honey being sold at a farmers' market needs to have producer's name, address, and zip code. Honey needs to have a grade, color, and weight on the container. The United States Standards will determine the color and grade. A summary of these standards can be obtained from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Laws and Regulations:

Certified Farmers' Markets operate under state laws and regulations adopted to encourage the direct sale by farmers to consumers of California agricultural products. Failure to comply with these laws may result in notices of noncompliance and/or fines. Please read through the attachment "Administrative Civil Penalties for Direct Marketing" to avoid problems. To see the complete text of the law, please go to www.cafarmersmarkets.com/legislation or you may pick up a copy from the Agricultural Commissioner.

Labeling:

Produce sold at a certified farmers' market is exempt from size, standard pack, container and labeling requirements. However, all fresh fruits, nuts, and vegetables sold in closed consumer containers shall be labeled with the name, address, and zip code of the producer, and a declaration of identity and net quantity of the commodity in the package.

Nursery Stock:

If you are selling nursery stock at a certified farmers' market, you must have a copy of your nursery license with you at the market. The Agricultural Commissioner may issue a "Fee Exempt Nursery License" if your anticipated annual sales of nursery stock amounts to less than \$1,000. The "Fee Exempt Nursery License" allows you to sell nursery stock only in Sonoma County. If you wish to sell nursery stock in additional counties and/or your expected sales will be greater than \$1,000, you must obtain a license to sell nursery stock from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The basic fee is \$100. Applications for this license are available from the Agricultural Commissioner.

Organic:

Any person selling organic products or representing products as organic at a certified farmers' market must conspicuously post a copy of their current State of California organic registration and, if applicable, documentation of their organic certification.

Quality of Produce:

All fresh fruits, nuts and vegetables sold shall comply with the California Code of Regulations governing maturity and quality.