Questions and Answers from Utah Dept. of Ag and Food on the COVID19 Food Establishment Permit Guidelines

Updated 5/11/2020

Can flowers be sold at markets right now?
No

Which UDAF license do I need to sell home grown produce items?
As long as you are not doing any processing of your home grown produce items, you do not need a permit from UDAF.

What’s the recommendation for reusable bags that customers bring to market?
It is not addressed that in our guidelines. As long as the individuals keep possession of their own bags and vendors are not handling it, that is acceptable. Some organizations are recommending packaging produce in compostable produce bags, and then have customers put that directly into their own bags. UDAF welcomes input on this - what’s reasonable and what’s not reasonable?

I manage my both on my own, will I run into a problem handling money?
It will depend on what kind of product is being sold. If the customer can pick up their product on their own, it could be possible to do that. You want to minimize the interaction as much as possible. Some vendors are doing Venmo, Square or exact cash. QR code. Paypal or Square is recommended since Venmo does not incorporate sales tax. Please see USU COVID19 Best Practices section on payments at markets.

Do you foresee arts and crafts being allowed during the yellow stage? And what timeline?
It’s possible that during the yellow stage, other vendors could be reintroduced into the mix. There may still be concern about mass gathering and lingering and it may need to still be a place that is in and out. UDAF will be working with health partners on this. I don’t see food vendors to be an issue if they were properly spaced and limit mass gathering

How do you encourage shoppers to wear masks if vendors are not wearing masks?
Suggestions:
• Have signage that encourages masks or share words that masks are required. Some farmers markets are providing masks.
• Some responsibility does fall back on the market managers; need to focus marketing graphics on communicating the goals of regulations.
• Cache Valley did a great post yesterday of infographic with two shoppers wearing mask ‘your mask protects us, our mask protects you’. Lots of positive responses. Something like this could be replicated.

If we have vendors who have reserved multiple booths, do we have to maintain the 10ft distance between booths?
No, the 10 ft pertains to per vendor, and not per booth.

If samples are pre-wrapped and not processed at the market, are they ok to distribute?
Yes

**Can samples be given to dogs or animals coming to the farmers market?** Not sure it would be appropriate, unless it's a service dog. Some markets are not allowing animals to markets at all.

**One county is saying that they won't let FM open until the Governor's office give direct authorization. How can we address this?**
Governor Herbert's issued an [Executive Order](#) on March 6, 2020 stating that agriculture and food are considered essential for public health and safety. Though he didn’t specify farmers markets, this is considered to include farmers markets. Any market having trouble getting permits should reach out to UDAF. Further, all guidelines and press releases regarding the guidelines for outdoor markets went through the Govs office before publishing. There might be some supporting documents around this, and that information will be shared when possible.

**Is there a plan to reduce regulations as we progress to yellow and green?**
Yes, absolutely. We are already in conversations about how to make amends at the state adjusts it's parameters. Will reach out and ask for feedback to hear from market managers/vendors.

**How long will these restrictions be in place?**
It all depends on COVID-19. It is very important that your managers contact their local health departments. We have sent the document to all of the local health departments.

**Do these requirements apply to drive thru markets?**
These requirements do apply to drive through markets with the following exceptions, as long as there is NO foot traffic and it's only drive through you can cut back on the number of handwashing stations, if one person is handling money, they can not handle food, the person handling the food, can not handle the money, concession vendors can not be there and there can not be any food samples.

**Will UDAF be rescinding permits?**
At this time UDAF will not be rescinding any permits.

**What if gloves are not readily available?** If vendors do not have gloves, handwashing with hand sanitizer would be acceptable.

**What are other agricultural products that can be sold at markets?**
Other foods can be breads, jams, etc... as long as they are packaged. As long as the salsa and jam are packaged and the person selling them already has a UDAF permit that is good. Unless your Farmers Market is going to allow vendors under the Homemade Food Act. Then you will have to follow those guidelines as well.

**A little bit of confusion about HB181 - Sounds like HB181 vendors are allowed as long as they follow the guidelines?** Please remember there are specific guidelines for Farmers Markets to follow if they allow homemade foods that are not regulated by UDAF. Attached is section 4-5a-
103 that contains requirements for the Farmers Market Managers to follow. These types of facilities will also need to follow the COVID-19 Farmers Market Guidelines.

Is recorded music ok?
Recorded music would not be OK. This would be entertainment and people may start to congregate in one area. Remember social distancing.

Please say more about POS device sanitation
The pos device can be wiped down with alcohol wipes, rags stored in unscented bleach or quaternary ammonium sanitizer. It needs to be sanitized after each transaction.

Will Create Better Health from USU be able to table at markets to share resources on preparing food? At this time no they will not be able to. The current thinking is the Farmers Markets are just to buy and sell foods.

Are handwashing stations for customers or vendors or both? Can you provide clarification on how many handwashing stations are needed for a drive-thru market? The handwashing stations are primarily for vendors, but markets might want to provide additional hand washing for customers. One handwashing station for every 5 booths.

If we do the online ordering, can we sell items that aren't food? Say I have someone who makes soap, since they won't have a booth with us, it will be in their bags to pick up curbside, would that be acceptable? The Farmers Market is just the buying and selling of food items. No soap.

Is it required that all markets be permitted through UDAF to operate? Yes. For this year we are requiring all Farmers Markets, no matter what size they are, to obtain a permit. I have attached a form they can fill out and email back to me.

Prepared Food is on-site hot food such as food trucks etc? If food trucks are doing pick up orders and customers are not permitted to eat on the premises would that be allowed? At this time in our guidance, we do not allow food trucks or food service. Likewise, we are only focused on providing farmers, ranchers and local food producers an opportunity to sell their food in a safe, responsible manner and in a traditional farmer’s market setting.

Food Artisans selling packaged food such as bread, jam, honey, gluten-free products, cereal, will they be allowed? Yes, all of the items you described can be offered for sale at the farmers market...no sampling though.
Vendors selling soaps, essential oils, natural cleaning supplies will they be allowed? Only locally grown and produced foods, no arts, crafts or household items....essential oils are regulated as a dietary supplement (food), so technically they could be included.

Usborne books have been our sponsor for several years now. They sell educational children’s books will they be allowed? Again, our focus is entirely on providing farmers, ranchers and local food producers an opportunity to operate in a safe, responsible and controlled way. The concern with the bookstore is people congregating and concentrating while pursuing. If we allow books, then we have to allow other items and we are no longer a farmers market or operating as an essential service.

I have a vendor that wants to use reusable gloves for taking payments instead of using disposable gloves in order to reduce waste and cost. They would wash the gloves after each market. The person handling money would not be handling food, if for some reason they needed to handle the food they would remove the gloves they used for taking payments, use hand sanitizer or wash hands, and put on a clean pair of gloves. Is this ok?
That's what they should be doing. Reusable gloves as you have here should be OK.