

Annarose Hart

Thank you for the time and energies being used to better the programs and assure awareness of available resources to the farmers markets and producers within the State of Kansas.

My farm, located in Butler county currently offers vegetables for sale at two Farmers Markets here in south central Kansas. We sell at the Walnut Valley Farmers Market in Winfield and at the Augusta Farmers Market in Augusta. In addition to the markets we also offer at a roadside stand and have a "pick your own" option.

Markets continue to develop and evolve as a sustained interest in local produce and products sweeps our country. In my area I have observed some differences in the operation and management of the area Farmers Markets. Whereas I do respect the right for each market to be individually managed, the need for some basic consistencies is apparent. Regardless of the venue, format or the theme of a market the regulations set forth by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Weights and Measures, and Kansas Department of Revenue should be honored.

Compliance with all applicable policies and regulations by all regulated parties lends to a safer, more consistent market experience for both the producer and consumer. Without persistent research many of these regulations may go unknown to managers or venders.

Questions such as;

- What can and can't I sell at a Kansas Farmers Market?
- In what units of measure can I sell my product?
- Why does my scale need to be state certified?
- Is pesticide use more restricted for produce being sold?

These and many other questions should be answered prior to selling at any market.

I support the registration of all farmers markets operating within the state of Kansas. This will enable the governing body to access a data base of all markets operating throughout the state for the conveyance of information on regulation, pending policies availability of market development assistance and food safety issues relative to the industry. It will also allow the consumer to locate local market options.

I feel the sustained interest in locally grown produce will continue to encourage the development of additional markets requiring information readily available. By seeking state registration new markets will be able to capitalize on information available from a single source that is up to date and informative.

Thank you for consideration of this matter,
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Senate Agriculture Committee
Date: 2-19-13
Attachment # 4-1