

## **Who Needs to be Licensed On-site at the Farmers Market, Fair or Festival?**

Vendors need a license at the event if they:

- Process and/or package food on-site.
- Sell pre-packaged food and are:
  - Not Michigan licensed as a food establishment at their base facility.
  - Michigan licensed as a food establishment at their base facility, but the food is not transported and sold by employees of the licensed food establishment.
- Operate a permanent packaged or ready-to-eat food establishment at the market.
- Operate a temporary food service that serves ready-to-eat meals, with on-site preparation. See guidance regarding what on-site preparation includes at:  
[http://www.mda.state.mi.us/fscs/PDFFiles/10009\\_FSE\\_Remote\\_Site\\_Service.pdf](http://www.mda.state.mi.us/fscs/PDFFiles/10009_FSE_Remote_Site_Service.pdf)
  - Licensure at farmers markets and festivals is done by local health departments.
  - Licensure at fairs is done by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).
- Note: All vendors (whether licensed or not) may offer samples. Safe sampling guidelines are available at:  
[http://michigan.gov/documents/mda/MDA\\_FdSmplngFarmMkts5-09\\_279110\\_7.pdf](http://michigan.gov/documents/mda/MDA_FdSmplngFarmMkts5-09_279110_7.pdf)

License exempt vendors include:

- Persons selling whole, uncut fresh fruits and vegetables directly to consumers.
- Cottage food processors. Food must be:
  - Non-potentially hazardous. For more information go to:  
[www.michigan.gov/cottagefood](http://www.michigan.gov/cottagefood)
  - Prepackaged and properly labeled, including the statement "Made in a home kitchen that has not been inspected by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development."
  - Sold directly to consumer by producer.
- Honey and maple syrup from small processors labeled "Made in an establishment that has not been inspected by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development."
- Shell egg producers selling their own eggs directly to consumers. Cartons must be labeled "Packaged in a facility that has not been inspected by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development."

Prohibited food sales:

- Raw milk and raw milk food products, except that raw milk cheese from a licensed Michigan dairy processor may be sold.
- Potentially hazardous food items processed or prepared in a home.

## **I Still Have Questions. Who Can I Contact?**

Call the MDARD Customer Service Center at 800-292-3939 or e-mail [MDA-Info@michigan.gov](mailto:MDA-Info@michigan.gov).