

Farmers Markets, COVID19, and Legal Considerations

Stimulus Bill and Farmers Markets

- The new stimulus bill created two loan options:
 - Economic injury disaster loan
 - Up to \$10k advance* that's a grant, up to \$2 million dollars, 30 year payment terms, 3.75% interest rates
 - Public non-profits not eligible
 - Paycheck protection program
 - Small businesses and public non-profits eligible
 - Designed to help cover payroll costs
 - If properly spent on payroll and meets all reqs. some may be forgivable
 - Up to 2.5x the average monthly payroll costs, including wages for employees making under \$100,000 as well as paid sick leave, healthcare, and other employee benefit expenses. The maximum interest rate is 4%.
 - Check local grants
 - <http://www.flaginc.org/2020/04/farmers-guide-to-covid-19-relief/>

Adapting your Market to COVID19, Legally

- Applications and Expectations for Vendors
 - Repercussions
- Limitations due to shut down
- Measures and signage for customers

Adapting your Market to COVID19, Legally

- Applications and Expectations for Vendors
 - Set COVID19 expectations for vendors (indv. packaging, gloves and mask, that reqs. May change etc.)
 - Include on application that applicant agrees to implement all market covid19 requirements
 - Include language that market can change requirements and policies
 - Communicate market policies
 - Have plan for ensuring compliance (pre-open check, vendor reporting procedure, etc.)
 - Have positive test procedures and encourage vendors to have employee stay home policies

Limitations due to Shut Down

- Non-food vendors can't vend under shut down provisions
- Only food items should be sold. A food vendor who also sells flowers or so is probably ok, but a flower only vendor probably isn't
- If you want to have them apply and then just be clear that they will be permitted once permissible and pro-rated fee paid
- No on-site eating of prepared foods (no picnic tables, have signage saying all prepared food must be taken home)

Measures and Signage for Customers

- Others have discussed some best practices so won't overlap...but a few key points:
 - Limit entrances/exits
 - Consider having entrance and exit, one-way flow, put signs at both ends
 - Put signage with rules and expectations
 - Mark spacing on ground
- You could have negligence issues if you don't take proper precautions
- Safety should be first priority

Stay Up to Date

- PASA
- Pa Dept. of Ag: markets and also look at guidance for retail businesses for confirmed positives.
- Penn State Extension
- Make sure you're relying on good and up to date info

Happy to Answer Questions

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