



Saskatchewan Farmer's Co-operative Ltd.

What are the *benefits* of joining Saskatchewan Farmers' Market Co-operative

Form 1(a)

Saskatchewan Farmers' Markets have an excellent reputation. They are a source of quality locally grown or crafted products and are recognized as such. We have set a high standard in what is offered to the public and this has been recognized by Saskatchewan Health.

We have an agreement with Saskatchewan Health. This allows us to publicly sell our products with their sanction. Our Markets are inspected annually by Health Inspectors and given a report. We have guidelines that show what can be sold and how to label your products. All Market Vendors must adhere to these Guidelines. We have printed up the information in a pamphlet form for all members to read and abide by. **We have a by-law insisting that all food handlers (from vegetable growers to bakers, to honey producers) must take the Safe Food Handling Course within a year of becoming members.** These measures have been taken to ensure quality control. We also participate in reviewing and updating the provincial guidelines with the Health Inspectors Group. If any changes are needed because Farmers' Markets need them, the Provincial Board is at the table.

We belong to Tourism Saskatchewan and from them we get advertising in the Vacation Guide that is sent out to tourists. We also distribute brochures to at the tourist booths Tourism Saskatchewan operates along the Saskatchewan borders.

We have a web page set up and operating at www.saskfarmersmarket.com our email address is at sfmc@sasktel.net each Member Market is listed in the web site and we are in the process of having a bigger and better site created. The current site includes a description of each Member Market, together with a contact and a description of the location, dates and times of their market days.

The new Website will include individual pages that can be accessed for each Member Market which wishes to be included. Any information they wish to include respecting vendors, products available, special market days, can all be included, as well as pictures if provided.

Our insurance is reasonable. Prior to 2009 SFMC pro-rated the insurance according the size of the market. The last year that premiums were collected from Member Markets to pay the insurance rates averaged \$100.00 to \$250.00 for the largest markets. Since 2009 SFMC has paid the premiums out of the regular levies collected from the Member Markets as there was sufficient money banked for this purpose. The coverage provides two million dollars in public liability insurance. Directors' insurance is also included in the coverage, as is the provincial office. Directors insurance is included in this coverage as well as the provincial office. The benefit of paid insurance premiums is an annual decision based on the monies in the bank. There could be a time in the future when SFMC is forced to return to collecting pro-rated insurance premiums from the member markets depending on the balance in our account.

Each Farmers' Market is a separate entity and can be run as the members think it will work best and succeed in their community, as long as it fulfills the requirements of the government agencies and by-laws of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Market.

SFMC Member Markets receive regular Newsletters updating them about market policy and news, as well as educational opportunities and helpful tips.

Lastly, the SFMC is an every-changing co-operative, responding to the needs of Member Markets. It is represented by volunteers from each participating Member Market. Use of levies collected pays for services determined by those members. These members are also available to be contacted to help other markets problem solve.

The Provincial Board of Directors of the SFMC is elected annually at the AGM, where all members and prospective vendors are welcome. Also at this AGM speakers are selected ahead of time to provide members with information that will benefit individual vendors grow, produce, bake and make as well as market their products.