

# ***2026 Christmas Market at the Petrolia Farmers' Market***

**Rules, Regulations & Vendor Application**



***Get Real....***

***Get Fresh....***

***Get Local....***

## ORGANIZATION

1. **Petrolia Farmers' Market.** The name of the market is the Petrolia Farmers' Market. The mission of the Petrolia Farmers' Market is to maintain a municipal run Farmer's Market for the purpose of marketing local farm, agriculture, and craft products and to improve production of, stimulate public interest in and increase consumption of local products. The Petrolia Farmers' Market is therefore open strictly to local (see Section 7) and bona fide producer-vendors; resellers are not eligible. All Vendors must be registered with the Town of Petrolia as a "Producer-Vendor" for the Petrolia Farmers' Market.
2. **Governance.** The Town of Petrolia will provide governance to oversee the market through recommendations from Directors and Administrative Staff. Membership to Farmers Market Ontario is recommended due to the recognition of the brand, listing of the Petrolia Farmers' Market on their website, their affiliation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the information, guidance and opportunities in which they provide.
3. **Management.** To run the Petrolia Farmers' Market requires adequate resources. The Director of Community Services will hold the position of Market Manager, and although there will be some volunteers through community groups, and sponsors, it is the direction of this plan to create a seasonal temporary contract position for a Market Coordinator. This position will be responsible to assist with the organization of the market, participate in all stakeholders meeting, maintain a relationship with vendors', create and distribute market communications, attended the market to assist vendors and customers, collect data, and to ensure the market is run according to the rules, regulations and by-laws set out in this plan as well as in the vendors' agreement. The Market Coordinator will report to the Market Manager.

## MARKET LOCATION & SEASON

4. **Location.** In 2010 our permanent market opened on Fletcher Street directly behind the Petrolia Library off of Petrolia Line. This location provides ample parking, easy access, and availability of public washrooms for Market Patrons.
5. **Dates & Hours.** Saturday December 5, 2026 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

### Special Markets will be held:

**\*\*To be Determined\*\***

## ELIGIBILITY FOR ATTENDANCE

6. **Producers-Only.** Applicants for a "Registration Certificate" must produce what they sell; resellers are not eligible for registration. All products offered for sale must be grown or produced by the applying Vendor. The Vendor is defined as the applicant or the applicant's spouse, sibling, child, parent, domestic partner or assistants who help substantially in the cultivation of the crops, or in the production of the agricultural, baking or craft product. The

sale of items grown or produced by anyone other than the Vendor, as defined above, shall not be permitted.

7. **Residency.** Applicants must be residents of Ontario and grow or produce the goods within a 150-km radius of Petrolia or at the discretion of the Market Manager.

## PRODUCT CATEGORIES

8. **Agriculture.** Products include, but are not limited to, fruit and vegetables, plants, shrubs, trees, flowers, honey, maple syrup, preserves, sauce, vinegar, meat, fish, poultry and eggs, soap, dried soup and other mixes, soils, manure, firewood, fleece, wool, fence posts, animal feed, grains, etc.

Agricultural vendors may sell pre-packaged servings for take-home, and a reasonable charge may be applied for small samples.

9. **Baking.** Products include, but are not limited to, breads, rolls, buns, muffins, cookies, fruit pies, cakes, pastries, meat pies, etc.
10. **Arts and Crafts.** Arts and Crafts must be hand-made by the Vendor using his or her own skill, artistry and training to produce a new, unique and original product.

## APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

11. **Vendor Agreement.** All applicants for membership must complete a “Vendor Agreement” form. This Agreement is made annually between the Petrolia Farmers Market and the producer-vendor, who agree to enter into a contract for their mutual benefit and to set out the terms and conditions of their Agreement, as detailed in this plan. The purpose of the Vendor Agreement procedure is to maintain a high quality, producer-based Market to provide a variety of balance and products, to ensure fairness to all Vendors and to ensure that Vendors abide by the rules of the Market. The Agreement also lists all the products approved by the Town of Petrolia for sale at the Market.
12. **Review.** The completed Vendor Agreement form is reviewed by the Market Manager and is approved by the council of the Town of Petrolia. All products to be offered for sale must be viewed by the Market Coordinator to ensure they are indeed produced by the applicant, are produced within a 100 km radius of Petrolia, are of high quality and are compatible with the other products sold at the Market. For future guidance, returning members with new products, and new yearly members and “Day of” producers, samples must be presented before Market day to ensure compliance; Decision making by the Coordinator may take place during the Market. In the case of crafts, the following factors will be closely monitored:
  - Craftsmanship and quality
  - Creativity and originality of concept
  - Value added to original or natural materials used in the finished product

- Reasonable and fair pricing

13. **Approval.** The Market Manager will recommend acceptance or rejection of each Vendor Application. The results will be forwarded to the Market Coordinator. The Town of Petrolia and the Market Manager reserves the right to refuse the acceptance of an applicant or product that is not in keeping with the rules, regulations or standards of the Petrolia Farmers Market. Applicants may address, as per Town By-Laws, the council to reconsider decisions made on their admission or products.

14. **New Products.** If, after approval of original product lists, Vendors wish to sell items which fall into different product category, or which represent a major departure from the product (s) originally viewed goods, they must have these items approved before they can be offered for sale. The original application will be amended as required. (See section 13)

## **BOOTH/STALL ALLOCATION**

15. **Space Limitations.** Vendors are limited to a single booth/stall space. Exemptions may be allowed.

15.1 **Sharing.** Two vendors may share a booth/stall, provided that they meet the following criteria:

- Both must hold individual memberships
- Products of both must be displayed at all times
- Their products are deemed compatible
- Both vendors must attend full time.

16. **Space Allocation and Location.** For the regular season, booth/stall spaces are allocated in the following priority:

- a) Farmers / Producers residing within the “Petrolia Area” will be given first priority.
- b) Farmers / Producers residing within the adjoining municipality will be given second priority.
- c) Farmers / Producers residing within Lambton County and adjoining Counties will be given third priority. (150km)
- d) In the future returning full-season Vendors have the right of first refusal on their previous year’s location, and first choice over all other Vendors for a new booth if they wish to make a change.
- e) New full-season Vendors
- f) Daily Vendors - on a first-come first-served basis.

For Special Markets, if applicable, space is allocated to full-season Vendors who may wish to participate. Priority for remaining space is given to daily agriculture, baking and daily craft Vendors. Vendors whose applications are received after the application deadline will be accommodated last.

## FEES

17. **Booth/Stall Fees.** All fees are based on booth/stall size.

- Daily: payable each day of market upon arrival and prior to selling, please submit payment to the Market Coordinator who will ensure your payment is applied to your A/R account
- Any Daily or Season fees that are invoiced to the Vendor will be done through the Town of Petrolia accounts receivable and are subject to monthly interest.
- Special Markets. Payable with application at the Petrolia Municipal Office

### 2026 FEES

| Booth Size    | Daily          |
|---------------|----------------|
| <b>10x 10</b> | <b>\$24.00</b> |

Plus HST

Fees will be reviewed yearly as per the Town's fee schedule.

### 2026 HYDRO/Water FEES

|              | Daily         | Special Market |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Hydro</b> | <b>\$5.00</b> |                |

Plus HST

18. **Refund Policy.** Membership, daily booth/stall and hydro usage fees are non-refundable. The Season and *Special Market* fees may be refundable, for valid reasons, on approval by the council of the Town of Petrolia. Refunds will be pro-rated according to Market days remaining. No administration fee will be applied in producing approved refunds. If a Vendor is suspended or expelled from the Market, no refunds of any kind will be returned.

## VENDOR RESPONSIBILITIES

19. **Compliance.** Vendors must comply with the following; failure to do so may be grounds for termination of the Vendor Agreement and registration.

- The Petrolia Farmers' Market rules, regulations and Bylaws
- Municipal, Provincial and Federal Regulations regarding labeling, measures, health and safety etc. for all products offered for sale at the market.
- Compliance is the responsibility of the individual Vendor and not that of the Petrolia Farmers' Market, Town of Petrolia nor its employees and or contractors.
- The town reserves the right to appoint the Market Manager, Market Coordinator and or staff to visit a farm or workshop etc. to verify compliance.

20. **Payment of Fees.** All applicable fees must be paid prior to setup.

21. **Booth Sitters.** Vendors, and/or their qualified and knowledgeable staff are expected to attend the Market in person to sell their own products. Occasional use of booth sitters is permitted, and Vendors are encouraged to arrange a sitter rather than not opening the booth/stall for the day.
22. **Season Vendor Attendance.** Full Season Vendors are expected to attend the Market full-time. Those who are absent will be required to explain their absences to the Market Coordinator.
23. **Punctuality.** Late arrivals and early departures disrupt the Market, annoy customers and can become a safety issue. Vendors who arrive late or leave early will first be warned by the Market Coordinator, if after attempts to fix the issue the Vendor could have their agreement and membership terminated.
- *Late Arrivals.* Vendors must arrive at the Market in time to unload, move products into the booth/stall, park vehicles, set up their booth/stall and open for business at the designated opening time (see article 5 for times). If a Season Vendor has not arrived at least 15 minutes before opening time the Market Coordinator has the option to rent the booth/stall to a Daily Vendor for the day. Season Vendors are encouraged to notify the Market Coordinator they will be late or absent.
  - *Early Departures.* Vendors must keep their booth/stalls open for the entire Market Day and not begin to tear down before designated closing time. All Vendors must leave the Market no later than ½ hour after the Market closes.
24. **Products.** Vendors must bring enough products to last the entire day. Exceptions may be made for reasons of product supply beyond the control of the Vendor; e.g. produce in season.
25. **Displays.** Vendors are responsible for providing all display materials (displays, tables, chairs etc.) and setting up and tearing down any displays. The Market is not able to provide any materials. Booths should have an attractive and professional appearance, enhanced by good presentation and cleanliness. Vendors are encouraged to seek the advice and assistance of the Market Manager or Market Coordinator. Vendors will be asked that unsightly or unsafe materials be removed.
26. **Parking.** Vendors are required to park in the designated areas after unloading their products or as directed by the Market Manager or Market Coordinator.
27. **Conducting Business.** Vendors must remain in their own booths/stalls when selling. Sales must be conducted in an orderly and business-like way, and no shouting or other objectionable means of soliciting trade are permitted.
28. **Pricing.** All items offered for sale must have prices prominently and clearly displayed. Vendors must not practice distress pricing by undercutting other Vendors or dumping products at bargain or sale price. Volume buying sales incentives such as "\$2 each – 3 for

\$5" are permitted, but not incentives that present a flea Market image; e.g. "Year-end Sale", "Buy Two Get One Free" or "discount". Vendors are responsible for collection and reporting of applicable taxes.

29. **Farm Products Grades and Sales Act.** Produce / Goods will be sold by units or legal containers, such as, but not limited to - bushel, 4-litre baskets, or quart. If your product is sold by weight, the scale has to be government inspected, with a valid sticker displayed. All produce should be correctly labeled and priced.

30. **Food Safety.** Every person handling food products must maintain a very high standard of personal hygiene and cleanliness. In fact, all Vendors and staff must practice these standards to prevent the transfer of pathogens between Vendors/staff and therefore to foods. Please adhere to the following guidelines:

- All foods offered for sale must be protected from contamination.
- All food and baking can only be made in a certified kitchen.
- Baking and processed foods must be pre-packaged at point of production or contained in a display case to protect from airborne and human contamination.
- All people handling food must wear clean clothing, wash hands often, be free from infectious disease, NOT smoke, and avoid touching nose, mouth, hair and skin.
- All Vendors MUST wash hands thoroughly with warm water and soap after visiting the washroom
- Containers and wrappings must be single use only
- Do not allow any unauthorized people access to where food is being prepared.
- Racks, shelves or tables must be provided for food display, and all food must be at least 15 cm (6 in) off the floor/ground.
- All canned products must be packaged in new jars and sealed with vacuum lids.
- Personal effects should not be stored anywhere near food products.

31. **Sampling and Condiments:** Do not allow customers to get hands anywhere near samples to be eaten by other customers; prepare individual samples that cannot be handled by more than one person; provide toothpicks or small paper containers or pass out each sample. Provide tongs, forks or spoons for each type of condiment being offered; no customer hands are allowed in the bowls. Please - clean up the serving area often; be especially careful to pick up food scraps that fall onto the ground or floor. Watch children very closely.

32. **Refuse.** Booth/stalls must be kept free from refuse during the Market Day, and at the end of the day all refuse/non-recyclables must be placed in the bins provided. Cardboard boxes, paper, glass and plastics must be placed in the recycling bins provided. ***Critical for any Producer and food Vendors*** - Because of the risk of vermin and scraps of any such material must be scrupulously cleaned up from the ground or floor throughout the day and upon the end of the Market Day.

33. **In-booth Storage.** Storage containers and equipment shall be confined to one's Market space and kept out of sight.

34. **Alcohol.** No alcoholic beverages are permitted at the Market site. Wine and Breweries are exempt.
35. **Smoking.** Smoking is restricted on the Market site—obey posted signage.
36. **Live Animals.** Live animals may not be sold at the Market. Pets are not permitted in the Market under any circumstances, guides dogs accepted.
37. **Insurance.** The Town of Petrolia - Petrolia Farmers' Market holds insurance for the market that covers its patrons and the Market itself. We do not provide coverage for the vendors or their products. The Town of Petrolia shall not in any way be responsible for any injuries, damages, or losses to vendors including physical injuries, thefts, damages of product, or any other loss or damage. The Petrolia Farmers' Market is not responsible for any issues arising from improper health and safety acts performed by the vendor. We highly recommend that vendors obtain their own liability insurance.

## **MARKET MANAGER / COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

38. **Rules and Regulations.** The Market Manager will oversee the Market Coordinator who in turn supervises the day-to-day operation of the Market. He/she will apply the rules, regulations and by-laws of the Market as detailed in this plan and report violations to the Market Manager as necessary. The following shall also apply:
- The Market Manager and the Market Coordinator will have full authority to enforce all rules and regulations as necessary.
  - The Market Manager may ask council to suspend a Vendor for a serious violation of the rules.
  - The Market Coordinator will maintain accurate records of all Vendors
  - The Market Coordinator will maintain accurate records of all fees collected.
39. **Collection of Fees.** The Market Coordinator shall collect all fees when they are due and promptly deliver said fees to Town of Petrolia Finance Department. Vendors may not set up until appropriate fees are paid. A \$35 charge will be levied for NSF cheques.
40. **Space Allocation.** The Market Coordinator shall assign all booth/stall space, taking into consideration:
- Priorities established in article 19 above.
  - Vendor attendance record, including late arrivals and early departures.
  - Booth/stall availability.
  - Product category and its compatibility with products of nearby Vendors.
  - Special requirements (hydro, late arrivals, early departures)
  - The Market Coordinator or Market Manager may move a Vendor for reasons of safety, health, product compatibility or other valid reason.

41. **Removal of Persons.** The Market Manager and or Market Coordinator has the authority, with cause, to deny access to the Market and or request any Vendor or other persons to leave the Market operating area and, if necessary, to call the police for assistance.
42. **Problem Resolution.** Vendors are encouraged to approach the Market Manager, Market Coordinator, and Administration Staff if they encounter a problem. Any issue that requires further attention will be brought to the attention of the CAO and council.

## **MARKET CANCELLATION**

43. In the case of inclement weather, a decision will be made on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at NOON. This will allow enough time to contact the vendors and media. A FULL refund will be issued in the event of cancellation due to weather. A cancellation notice will come by email from either Thera Wagner [twagner@petrolia.ca](mailto:twagner@petrolia.ca) or Laurissa Ellsworth [lellsworth@petrolia.ca](mailto:lellsworth@petrolia.ca).

The **Market Manager Julie Bullock** can be reached any time at the Petrolia Municipal Office, during regular business hours at:  
411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia  
By email at [jbullock@petrolia.ca](mailto:jbullock@petrolia.ca)  
Or phone 519-882-2350

## APPROVED CROPS

The following list of crops is approved (but not limited to) for sale at the Petrolia Farmers Market:

|                |                 |               |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Apples         | Asparagus       | Beets         | Beans (all)     |
| Bedding Plants | Bok Choy        | Broccoli      | Brussel sprouts |
| Cabbage        | Carrots         | Cauliflower   | Celery          |
| Sweet Corn     | Christmas Trees | Cucumbers     | Cut Flowers     |
| Currents       | Dill            | Eggplant      | Garlic          |
| Green Onions   | Gourds          | Grapes        | Garlic          |
| Kale           | Kohlrabi        | Chinese Melon | Leeks           |
| Lettuce        | Maple Syrup     | Melons        | Cooking Onions  |
| Parsley        | Parsnip         | Peas (all)    | Peppers (all)   |
| Potatoes       | Pumpkins        | Radishes      | Raspberry       |
| Rutabagas      | Rhubarb         | Spinach       | Spanish Onions  |
| Strawberries   | Squash          | Swiss chard   | Tomatoes        |
| Trees          | Shrubs          | Watermelon    | Zucchini        |