



## Certified Farmers' Markets

Certified Farmers' Markets (CFMs) serve an important role in our local food systems and communities by helping increase access to fresh, healthy produce. The Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures (AWM) works to protect both buyers and sellers by inspecting and certifying farmers' markets and producers throughout the county.

### Why Does Certification Matter?

Farmers' markets are certified to ensure that what you buy is locally grown by verified California farmers and ranchers. It also helps farmers and vendors reduce costs through shared permits and licenses to pass additional savings on to you — the customer!

### Who Regulates Farmers' Markets?

CFMs in San Diego County are inspected by several agencies to meet certain safety and quality standards:

1. **Agriculture, Weights & Measures** certifies your local farmers' market and regulates all agricultural products, including anything labeled as organic.
2. **The Department of Environmental Health and Quality** inspects all food vendors, including all hot or prepared food products.
3. **Fire Departments** ensure CFMs follow all public safety codes and guidelines.
4. **City Police** or **County Sheriff** enforce solicitor license requirements for markets, depending on location.
5. **Waste, Recycling, and Composting** requirements are enforced by either the County or local city officials, depending on location.



Learn more and find your local Certified Farmers' Market!

[More Info >>>](#)



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## How to Start a Farmers' Market

Complete an application including the following:

- Documentation that verifies eligibility as a Certified Producer, nonprofit, or government agency.
- A load sheet for certified producers to report the type and quantity of products sold at the market.
- A map of the market layout which shows all Certified Producers grouped together in a designated area of the market (also referred to as the certified section).
- Day and time of the market.

Obtain any additional permits and licensing:

- Temporary Events Permit from the Department of Environmental Health and Quality.
- For markets in the unincorporated areas of San Diego county, operators must also secure a Solicitor's License from the County Sheriff's Licensing Division.
- For markets in one of the 18 incorporated cities within San Diego County, additional permits may be required by the city in which the market operates.

## How to Sell at a Farmers' Market

To become a Certified Producer and sell at Certified Farmers' Markets, you must meet the following:

1. **Crop Production:** Grow the crops you sell.
2. **Land Use:** Own or lease the land crops are grown on.
3. **Inspection:** Inspectors will verify production of all agricultural products at your growing grounds

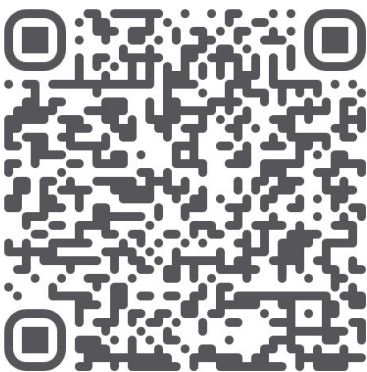
## Contact Us

### Agricultural Standards

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Web: [SanDiegoCounty.gov/AWM/farmers\\_markets](http://SanDiegoCounty.gov/AWM/farmers_markets)



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