

Farmers' Market: Small Scale Canning

What is Canning?

Canning means the preservation and packaging in hermetically sealed containers of low-acid or acidified foods.

Foods typically canned and sold at Farmers' Markets include: pickled products, herbal vinegars, dressings, jellies and jams



Licensing

A food processing license is required.

Dane County Farmers' Market Vendor license or DATCP Mobile Retail license is not required for non-potentially hazardous canned food items at the Farmers' Market.

Special Considerations

Canning low acid foods like vegetables are discouraged due to the risk of botulism.

A written canning process is required for low acid or acidified foods. The written process must be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection prior to licensing.

Labeling

All packaged food must be labeled. The label must include the following information:

- Name of the product
- List of ingredients including allergens
- Net weight or volume
- Name, address, and zip code of manufacturer, packer, or distributor
- Nutritional information required for special nutritional, health or quality claims
- "Refrigerate after Opening" (if necessary)

Safe Handling

At the point of sale canned foods must be stored at least 6 inches off the ground.

Stands will be required to have overhead protection.

Sampling

- Provide a safe method for customers to sample products using single-use disposable utensils.
- Post a sign or provide verbal sampling instructions.
- Displayed foods (foods not for sale) must have a sign indicating "Display Only".

Contacts

Farmers' markets within Dane County:

Public Health-Madison and Dane County
608-243-0330
<http://www.publichealthmdc.com/>

Food processing licenses and farmers' markets outside of Dane County:

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Food Safety
608-224-4700
<http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/index.jsp>

For Q & A about the "Pickle Bill":

<http://www.publichealthmdc.com/environmental/food/farmersMarket.cfm>



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