



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

BECOMING A CERTIFIED PRODUCER Q&A QUICK GUIDE

Are you interested in selling at a certified farmers' market (CFM)?

If you grow fresh fruits, nuts, vegetables, cultivated mushrooms, herbs, shell eggs, honey, cut flowers, unprocessed grains, and nursery stock and would like to sell in the certified section of a CFM, you must obtain a certified producer certificate.

What is a certified producer?

A certified producer is a farmer or grower whose farming practices and production have been verified by the San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner. Once inspection is complete and commodities being grown are verified, a certified producer certificate will be issued listing all the commodities you are growing and allowed to sell at a California CFM.

Which agricultural products are certifiable?

Certifiable agricultural products include whole fresh fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs, cultivated mushrooms, shell eggs, honey, cut flowers, unprocessed grains, and nursery stock.

Which agricultural products are not certifiable?

Noncertifiable agricultural products include dairy, pollen, unprocessed beeswax, propolis, royal jelly, raw sheared wool, livestock meats, poultry meats, rabbit meats, and fish, including shellfish that is produced under controlled conditions in waters located in California. Additionally, all certified agricultural products that have been processed are noncertifiable agricultural products for purposes of direct marketing.

If I am selling agricultural products that I produced in the certified section of a CFM, can I also sell nonagricultural products at my vendor stand?

No, the sale of nonagricultural products is not permitted in the certified section of a CFM.

What are nonagricultural products?

Services, arts, crafts, bakery, candies, soaps, balms, perfumes, cosmetics, pottery, clothing, fabrics, pastas, compost, fertilizers, candles, ceramics, FORAGED FOODS, and types of wares.

How much does a certified producer certificate cost?

The San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner charges a \$60.00 fee for inspection and issuance of certified producer certificate.

Do I have to renew my certificate?

Yes, a certified producer certificate is only valid for 12 months. Amendments are allowed throughout the year.

How do I apply for a certified producer certificate (CPC)?

You must fill out a certified producer application with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. You may apply online by clicking on the link: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i & c/cfm.html>

WHAT SECTION OF THE MARKET CAN I SELL MY PRODUCT?

COMMODITY	CERTIFIED SECTION (BE OF OWN PRODUCTION)	NON CERTIFIED SECTION
Fresh fruits, nuts, vegetables	Yes	No
Dried fruit	Yes	Yes
Herbs	Yes	No
Cultivated mushrooms	Yes	No
Shell eggs	Yes	Yes
Honey (pollen, unprocessed bees wax, propolis, royal jelly)	Yes	Yes
Cut flowers	Yes	No
Nursery stock	Yes	Yes
Various flavored nuts	Yes	Yes
Beans (dry)	Yes	Yes
Unprocessed grains	Yes	Yes
Meats – livestock, poultry, rabbit	Yes Animals must be raised by the producer	Yes
Fish, shellfish	Yes Produced under controlled conditions in waters located in California	Yes
Dairy (cheeses)	Yes Raise the animals (goats, cows)	Yes
Wine	Yes Commodity must be listed on CPC	Yes
Olive oil	Yes Commodity must be listed on CPC	Yes
Cider	Yes Commodity must be listed on CPC	Yes
Bakery (cookies, pies, etc.)	No	Yes
Candies (chocolate covered nuts)	No	Yes
Balms, perfumes	No	Yes
Soaps (any kind)	No	Yes
Candles (any kind)	No	Yes
Ceramic pottery	No	Yes
Foraged foods	No	Yes
Wreaths	No	Yes
Arts, crafts	No	Yes

If you need assistance applying for a certified producer certificate or have further questions, please contact:
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