

Bulkley Valley Farmers' Market Association

Ready-to-Eat Food Policy

Policy brief & purpose

A ready-to-eat food vendor is defined as a vendor who sells food or drink sold for immediate consumption. The intention of this policy is to clarify which ready-to-eat food vendors require special permission from the Board of Directors.

Scope

This policy applies to vendors and potential vendors of the Bulkley Valley Farmers' Market Association (BVFMA). All members are obliged to comply with this policy.

Ready-to-Eat Food products do not automatically qualify under the 'Make, Bake and Grow' criteria in the Rules. Ready-to-Eat Food vendors require Special Permission before they can sell at the market. There are two exceptions whereby Ready-to-Eat Food may be sold without Special Permission:

1. a farm vendor whose main or primary products for sale qualify as 'Grown' may sell ready-to-eat food utilizing their farm's products as the primary ingredients, and
2. a vendor whose primary products qualify as 'Baked' may sell their baked goods individually for immediate consumption.

Special Permission

All other Ready-to-Eat products require Special Permission before they can be sold at the market. Special Permission is granted solely at the discretion of the BVFMA Board.

Applications will be considered using the following criteria:

1. Special Permission Ready-to-Eat Food Vendors must not offer the same, or very similar product as a vendor who vends under the exceptions noted above.
2. Special Permission will be assessed in the following priority:
 - a) First priority will be given to vendors who utilize primary locally produced ingredients in their products.
 - b) Second priority will be given to vendors who utilize secondary locally produced ingredients in their products, their products are considered a good draw for the market, and a good fit with BVFMA objectives.
 - c) Third priority will be given to vendors who don't utilize locally produced ingredients; however their products are considered a good draw for the market, a good fit with BVFMA objectives, and fill a niche where local products are unavailable.
 - d) Preference will be given to applicants who attend the market consistently for the duration of the season.
 - e) Preference will be given to applicants who reduce waste by minimizing container use, and when necessary use containers that are (in priority): reusable, compostable (with receptacle provided), or recyclable (with receptacle provided).

3. Special Permission Ready-to-Eat Food Vendors (excluding vendors whose main products qualify as 'Grown' or Baked') will not comprise more than 10% of total vendors (total vendors being the per market average from the previous year).
4. Applicants must not operate a restaurant with a permanent location and regular hours.

To be given full consideration, Special Permission Ready-to-Eat Food Vendor Applicants should apply at least one month prior to the season they wish to vend by submitting their full menu with ingredient sources along with the BVFM Application Form. Applications received after this will be considered if the Ready-to-Eat Food Vendor limit has not been met.

General Requirements

Ready-to-Eat Food Vendors must have all relevant Health Authority Permits displayed and abide by all other BVFMA Rules.

Vendors who do not require Special Permission should get their vendor applications in at least 6 weeks prior to the first day of the season (indoor or outdoor). This gives the Board opportunity to apply criteria #1 above to applications requiring Special Permission. Less than 6 weeks prior to the beginning of the season, the Board will review and approve or deny applications requiring Special Permission as they are submitted.