CHAPTER 40-9-1

PURPOSE

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40-9-1-.01 Ownership and Operation


40-9-1-.01 Ownership and Operation. Amended.

(1) The Farmers' Markets of this State are State owned, State operated, and under the control and jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Each such Market shall only be utilized as provided by law or Rules and Regulations applicable thereto. The right is reserved to limit, restrict and prohibit the use of any Market, for any purpose or by any person, when the Commissioner of Agriculture, by himself or through his designated agent, deems such use contrary to or in conflict with the best interest of such Market or the operation thereof.

(2) No person shall use any Market facility for any purpose, including but not limited to, the making of a delivery on the Market, except as provided by these Rules and Regulations and as provided by Law. All farmers, producers, merchants, day laborers, customers and persons making deliveries on any Market shall be subject to these Rules and Regulations and to the Local Operating Rules of the Market established in accordance with these Regulations.

(3) No person has an absolute right to sell produce at the State Farmers' Markets. If a person does not possess a current license, that person is in trespass and the Market Manager or Department of Agriculture Commissioner or his agent will demand that person vacate the premises immediately upon oral or written request. If the person does not comply with the request, that person is in trespass, and the Market Manager or Department of Agriculture Commissioner or his agent may request that such person immediately vacate the premises and the Commissioner or his agent may request the Sheriff of the appropriate county or use any other lawful means to remove that person from the Farmers' Markets area immediately.

CHAPTER 40-9-2
MANAGEMENT

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40-9-2-.01 Assignment of Space and Collection of Fees
40-9-2-.02 Use of Property for Expressive Activity
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40-9-2-.05 Packaging
40-9-2-.06 Marketing Orders
40-9-2-.07 Market Sanitation
40-9-2-.08 Utilities

40-9-2-.01 Assignment of Space and Collection of Fees. Amended.

(1) All farmers, producers, merchants, day laborers and others using any Markets must contact the Market Manager of such Market or his representative, before making deliveries, engaging in business or occupying space on the Market. The Market Manager may require that all day laborers seeking independent employment on a Farmers’ Market must register with the Market Manager. The Market Manager will designate a space or area for laborers to assemble while awaiting employment.

(2) The Market Manager of a Market or his representative will assign space and collect fees according to a published schedule. Each Market Manager shall have the authority to issue a “Schedule of Fees” to be charged subject to approval of the Commissioner of Agriculture, and to alter, amend, or suspend any part of all such fees, subject to approval of the Commissioner of Agriculture. The published “Schedule of Fees” will cover all vehicles entering the Market to sell or deliver its contents.

(3) Fees shall be collected at the gate on all loaded vehicles. Failure to purchase and obtain gate tickets when required under the Act or these Rules will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business at the Markets in the future.

(4) Truck Sales. This method allows for 24 hours parking on shed or until the load is sold whichever comes first. The gate ticket covers 24 hours parking. If the load is not sold at the end of this 24 hour period, the Market Manager will assign a stall for periods of 24 hours until the load is sold. Additional fees will be paid for each 24 hour period. When produce is sold, the space shall immediately revert back to the Market. One hour is given to clean and vacate the space. Failure to pay additional fees when required under the Act or these Rules will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business at the Markets in the future.

(5) Space Sales. This method allows an individual to locate or establish his business on a continuous day to day basis for the season in a specified place on the sheds. Payment for space per stall for 24 hours shall be published by each Market and collected daily. This fee shall be in addition to the gate fee. Failure to pay the fees when required under the Act or these Rules will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business at the Markets in the future.
(6) No person shall use any space upon the Market except as assigned and authorized by the Market Manager. Use of stalls or spaces by anyone other than the person assigned and authorized by the Market Manager is prohibited. The use of space not assigned and authorized by the Market Manager as required under the Act or these Rules will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business at the Markets in the future.

(7) Space on a Market may be designated by the Market Manager as "Producer" area and upon such designation, only producers selling produce actually grown by the producer may be offered for sale therein. A producer occupying space in a "Producer" area who shall offer for sale produce not grown by him shall forthwith lose his status as a producer and may be removed from the "Producer" area and will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business at the Markets in the future.

(8) Items cannot be displayed on steps or sidewalk, and nothing can be displayed on walkway at the end of shed on platform unless the licensee obtains written permission of the Market Manager. The use of space in this manner will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business at the Markets in the future.


40-9-2-.02 Use of Property for Expressive Activity.

(1) Persons who desire to assemble for public communication on or within farmers' markets or facilities operated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture must first give written notice to the market manager or facility manager and complete arrangements for approval from department staff at least 72 hours before such assemblage.

(2) Use of areas as a public communication shall not interfere with the normal operations of the market or facilities including safe, unhindered passageways for all persons.

(a) Passageways will be deemed hindered if persons or traffic may not proceed conveniently.

(b) Doors and gates within such areas will be hindered if it is inconvenient to proceed directly through and out onto unhindered passageways.

(c) Where space is insufficient, limitation upon size of assemblage may be ordered.

(d) Where concurrent accommodation within such areas cannot be made, priority shall be given to persons who have first given notice and completed prior arrangements with the department staff.

(3) Locations within such areas for assemblage and public communication shall be designated by oral or written instruments and may also be designated by the use of stakes, rope, fencing and the like.

(4) No one shall go upon the grass and gardens of the grounds unless designated by department staff.
(a) No one shall climb upon the fences, buildings or other facilities of the grounds of such areas except stairs intended for passageway.

(b) No one shall hang banners, posters, signs or flags, or otherwise affix or place objects upon the trees, fences, buildings, walls and other property on the grounds of such areas.

(c) No one shall throw objects onto the property or the grounds of such areas or litter or cause the grounds of such areas to be littered.

(5) No one shall assemble for public communication on or within such areas while carrying a weapon. Without limiting the foregoing, a picket handle with a pointed end and a picket handle made of metal of any size or of wood greater than lath size may be deemed weapons.

(6) Noise so loud that it interferes with the normal operations of the market or facility is prohibited.


40-9-2-.03 Personal Conduct. Amended.

(1) Any person found by the Commissioner to have been charged with any crime or any violation of the Georgia Marketing Act of 1981 or any rule promulgated pursuant thereto on the Farmers’ Market property, will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business at the Markets and prohibited from doing any business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets on any Farmers’ Markets of the State in the future.

(2) No marketer, vendor or other person shall do any act or use any language intended thereby to insult another person or customer or to intimidate a shopper into purchasing his produce; nor shall they attempt to fix the prices of produce of any other farmer, vendor or merchant; but every person shall sell his or her produce, unmolested, at whatever price such person may adopt; and no person shall circulate false reports tending to upset or destroy the operation of any other person or of the market.

(3) The sale or use of alcohol, illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia is strictly prohibited. If any licensee is found to be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, this activity will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the Farmers’ Markets in the future. A conviction for use of alcohol, illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia can be used as a proper ground for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers’ Markets in the future. Notwithstanding, alcohol may be served and consumed by persons when in attendance of a party and/or fundraiser on the State Farmers’ Market property which had been authorized by the Market Manager.

(4) The use of profane, abusive or discourteous language on any Market is prohibited and will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or be employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers’ Markets in the future.
(5) The breaking, defacing or destruction of any part of a Market property, or interference with electric fixtures, wiring, etc., or meddling with shades, globes or other apparatus belonging to said Market property, is prohibited, and any person found to be responsible for any such act or acts, in addition to any other punishment, shall be required to have repaired any damage resulting from such action. No coolers, freezers, refrigerators, cooking equipment, sleeping facilities, or wind breaks are permitted in shed areas. Adding machines, radios, etc., are permitted using plug-in receptacles only. Light bulbs only are to be used in light sockets. No smudge pots may be used. No nails or spikes are to be used on walls. Shelves, etc., are to be constructed independently of the building—not anchored to walls, floors or ceiling.

(6) Reselling shall not be permitted on Farmers' sheds. Reselling will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or be employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers' Markets in the future. Holding space by use of parked vehicles, small amount of produce, etc., will not be permitted. Gate fees will be charged on all loaded vehicles. Space-rent fees will not be altered by use of gate ticket. The inscription on yellow copy of gate ticket shall not apply where space-rent is involved.

(7) Access to electrical outlets within such areas will not be permitted unless an electrical fee is paid.

(8) The following activities may subject a person's license to be suspended or revoked:

(a) Playing or allowing one's employees or customers to play music and or movies on Cassette, CD, DVD, or other technology from stereos, boom boxes, other media players, cars, trucks, or other vehicles that disturbs other licensees in other stalls on the Market or visitors to the Market is prohibited. Such activity will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the State Markets at any of the Farmers' Markets in the future.

(b) Use of Video and Digital recorder or any other mechanical means recording for any purpose will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers' Markets in the future unless the person or persons recorded have given written permission from the Market Manager for such recording.

(c) Failure to dispose of trash into proper trash containers will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers' Markets in the Future.

(d) Parking of any type of vehicles to prohibit the movement of fire and other emergency type vehicles will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers' Markets in the future.

(e) Parking vehicles of any type for more than 48 hours without permission of the Market Manager will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers' Markets in the future.

(f) Allowing any individual who has had a license issued by the Department of Agriculture revoked within two years to serve as an employee or agent at the rented stalls will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of
(g) The cutting of firewood anywhere in any part of the Market is not permitted and will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers’ Markets in the future.


40-9-2-.04 Quality of Merchandise. Amended.

(1) Products that grade more than ten percent (10%) culls shall not be offered for sale on any Market by any person. All culls graded out of produce on the Markets must be disposed of as garbage, or dumped. All units of produce bought on the Markets must be bought as such and no deductions made for percentage of culls. Unwholesome, spoiled or damaged food or products unfit for human consumption shall not be offered for sale on any Market by any person. Such selling of unwholesome, spoiled or damaged food or products unfit for human consumption will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers’ Markets in the future.

(2) False packs are prohibited on any Market. The term "False Packs" means the topping or facing of containers with the best products exposed and poorer products concealed underneath.


40-9-2-.05 Packaging. Amended.

Containers shall not be altered in any manner and must hold at least the amount specified. Products not meeting the requirements of the Weights and Measures label laws of the State of Georgia shall not be sold, exposed or offered for sale on any Market by any person. This activity will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers’ Markets in the future.


40-9-2-.06 Marketing Orders. Amended.

Products covered by a Marketing Order which fail to meet the provisions of the Order shall not be sold, exposed or offered for sale on any Market by any person. Sale, exposure or offering for sale products which are covered which do not meet the provisions of a Marketing Order will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the Farmers’ Markets in the future.

40-9-2-.07 Market Sanitation. Amended.

(1) All occupants shall cooperate in keeping the Market clean.

(2) No one may dispose of trash or spoiled produce into containers not owned or leased by licensee unless the licensee has permission from the owner or lessee of the container. Such activity will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers’ Markets in the future.

(3) Failure to dispose of their trash resulting into proper trash containers by any licensee or agent of the licensee will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers’ Markets in the future.


40-9-2-.08 Utilities. Amended.

The cost of gas, private telephones, electricity and water, including installation and use, will be the responsibility of each dealer and farmer unless the Commissioner has specifically assumed such responsibility and has made other arrangements and deems it necessary to assess individual charges for use of utilities.

CHAPTER 40-9-3

LOCAL RULES

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40-9-3-.01 Local Operating Rules

40-9-3-.01 Local Operating Rules.

Each Market Manager shall have authority to issue "Local Operating Rules" subject to approval by the Commissioner of Agriculture and alter, amend or suspend any part or all of such rules, subject to approval by the Commissioner of Agriculture. All such "Local Operating Rules", with the changes thereto, shall be posted on the Market and readily accessible to the public, and all users of a particular Market shall by such usage agree to abide thereby. Failure to abide by such "Local Operating Rules" will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the Farmers' Markets in the future.

CHAPTER 40-9-4
REPORTS AND COMPLAINTS

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40-9-4-.01 Filing of Complaints

40-9-4-.01 Filing of Complaints.

(1) Any complaint shall be presented to the Market Manager in writing on the approved Department of Agriculture Form, Department of Agriculture Form #108. Such complaint shall give complete and adequate information, setting forth in detail the circumstances surrounding any alleged injuries, damages and/or the basis for the complaint. Such complaint shall be signed by the complainant.

(2) The Market Manager possesses the discretion and responsibility to investigate and resolve complaints.

(3) Any complaints found to false or frivolous will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers’ Markets in the future.

(4) Department of Agriculture Form #108. (Attachment #1)

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SUBMITTING COMPLAINT ON STATE FARMERS’ MARKET

The following information should be totally and accurately completed. (Please print.)

__________________________________________ State Farmers’ Market

The following information should be totally and accurately completed. (Please print.)

__________________________________________
(Name)

__________________________________________
(Address)

__________________________________________
(City, State, Zip)

__________________________________________
(Telephone No.)

Are you currently on the Market? (Yes No)

If yes, where are you located? Building/Shed Unit/Stall

Nature of Complaint (Give complete and adequate information, including detailed circumstances surrounding any alleged injuries, damages and/or the basis for the complaint.)
CHAPTER 40-9-5

LAW ENFORCEMENT

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40-9-5-.01 Violations
40-9-5-.02 Compliance with State Laws

40-9-5-.01 Violations.

(1) Any person, firm, association or corporation violating the provisions of any of the foregoing Rules and Regulations, in addition to being subject to punishment as provided by law, will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers' Markets in the future.

(2) It shall be the duty of each person on any Market to promptly remove himself and his property from such Market upon proper request or direction of the Market Manager. If such person remains on the Market after the Department requests or at the discretion of the Market Manager, that person shall be in criminal trespass. The Market Manager shall request the assistance of the local Sheriff to remove trespassers from the Market.

(3) Failure of licensee to correct any violation within 24 hours of being informed of the violation, whether in writing or orally, will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers' Markets in the future.

(4) "Any rule or regulation heretofore promulgated which conflicts with these rules and regulations is hereby repealed."


40-9-5-.02 Compliance With State Laws.

All occupants shall comply with every law and regulation of the State.

CHAPTER 40-9-6
LICENSING

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40-9-6-.01 Licenses
40-9-6-.02 Forms to be Completed by the Applicant for License
40-9-6-.03 Repealed

40-9-6-.01 Licenses. Amended.

(1) In order to better manage the markets authorized by this Act, and to thereby facilitate the use of the markets by the citizens of this state, on or after July 1, 2004, all persons desiring to sell or to offer for sale any items on the facilities of any market which charges a gate fee must be licensed to do so by the Commissioner of Agriculture. All agents of persons desiring to sell or offer for sale produce of another at a stall must also secure a license. The Local Operating Rules may ease the license requirement for agents and employees desiring to sell or offer for sale the produce of another at a truck or stall. A license affords a licensee only the privilege to enter upon a Market with permission of the Department of Agriculture and to pay a daily fee for the use of a particular stall on the Market. The issuance of a license is not intended to convey any type of leasehold interest. All licenses shall expire on December 31 of each calendar year unless suspended and revoked before that time, except that licenses for leaseholders will continue in effect concurrently with the renewal of successive leases and shall expire only in the event the leaseholder’s lease is not renewed. By applying for a license and/or holding same, the applicant or licensee, as the case may be, gives his express consent for representatives of the Commissioner of Agriculture to enter upon and inspect all property owned, leased, controlled or used in the production of crops, by said applicant or licensee.

(2) By making an application for a license, and/or holding same, the applicant or licensee agrees to abide by and comply with the laws, rules and regulations, and local operating rules pertaining to the operations of Farmers’ markets in this state. Non-compliance with any law, rule or regulation, or local operating rule pertaining to the operation of any Farmers’ market shall constitute cause for revocation, suspension, non-renewal or denial of any license required pursuant hereto and shall constitute cause for immediate removal from market premises.

(3) All procedures and practices relative to the issuance, denial, non-renewal, suspension or revocation of licenses required pursuant hereto shall be conducted in accordance with the Department of Agriculture, Registration, License and Permit Act (GA Laws 1966, p. 307 as amended).

(4) An agent or employee may not sell or offer to sell any produce in a stall without a current license. Such activity will constitute proper grounds for revocation or suspension of a license and the right to conduct any type of business or being employed by any business to conduct business on the Markets at any of the State Farmers’ Markets in the future.

(5) If a license is properly revoked by law, the person whose license has been revoked may not reapply for a period of two years from the effective date of the revocation.

(6) If a license is properly revoked by law, the person whose license has been revoked is a trespasser under Georgia law.
(7) The Commissioner or his designee will consider the following when considering issuing a
licensee:

(a) Past violations at any of the State Farmers’ Markets'

(b) The likelihood of committing violations of the Act or Rules in the future;

(c) The selling of produce at any of the State Farmers’ Markets without a proper license;

(d) Allowing another to sell produce at any of the State Farmers’ Markets without a proper license;

(e) The selling of produce at any of the State Farmers’ Markets after the license has been
suspended or revoked;

(f) Relatives who have had licenses revoked in the past;

(g) Any other relevant information can be considered and properly weighed.

Authority Ga. L. 1976, p. 678, 680. History. Original Rule entitled "Licenses" was filed on April

40-9-6-.02 Forms to be Completed by the Applicant for License and License Renewal.

(1) All persons using the facilities of any market which charges a gate fee for the purpose of
selling or offering for sale any item on the premises of such a market in the State of Georgia
shall first file with the Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Georgia, upon forms furnished
by the Commissioner, the following information as an application or annual renewal for a license
to sell on Georgia State Farmers’ markets (Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Macon, Savannah):

(a) Name of person or firm desiring a license;

(b) Mailing and street address(es) or applicant;

(c) Classification of applicant, (producer, trucker, dealer, employee, agent, other);

(d) Type of business (owned by one person, a partnership or corporation, n/a);

(e) Full name, title and home address of all owners, partners and/or officers (each must be 18
years of age or older);

(f) County or counties and street address(es) where farm or farms located, if applicable;

(g) Principal produce to be grown and offered for sale, if applicable;

(h) Truck's owner, make, year, model and tag number;

(i) For dealers, the following additional information is required:

1. Type of business to be operated.

2. Name and address of bank or banks used.

3. Do you have a P.A.C.A. license?
4. Give license number.

5. If no P.A.C.A. license, has application been made?

6. Has P.A.C.A. license ever been revoked or suspended? If yes, why?

7. Are you bonded as a dealer in agricultural products for Georgia? If yes, give name and address of company.

8. State kind or kinds of agricultural products to be handled.

9. Give name or names of your agent authorized to represent you in Georgia, if any.

(j) Date-Signature>Title.

(2) The applicant as a condition to granting or renewing license shall agree to comply with and abide by the terms of the laws, rules and regulations, and local operating rules pertaining to the operation of Farmers' markets in this state. The applicant shall further certify that the statements made in the application for license or renewal are true to the best of the knowledge and belief of the applicant. False disclosure of information on an application for a license or renewal shall be basis for denial and/or revocation of the license applied for.


40-9-6-.03 Repealed.