

Dear Local Growers & Artists,

The 2026 Farmers Market Season will soon be here & das MärIt Farmers & Artists Market is for you! Information about this open air market located at the highly traveled intersection of US 27 & SR 218 in the small city of Berne, Indiana follows.

This market is open on Saturday mornings each week mid-May through mid-October. Enclosed you will find the 2026 Market Handbook and vendor application. All interested vendors should read the handbook. Vendors must complete the application and sign the vendor and liability release forms prior to setting up at the market. Bring the completed application and release form with you to your first market day. We desire and strongly encourage a "Grow it, bake it or make it" market.

Why should you be at das MärIt Farmers & Artists Market?

- This is an exciting time for small, local growers. Both the Indiana Dept. of Agriculture and Indiana Department of Health have encouraged local farmers' markets. Consumers are learning the importance of knowing who grows their food...now is the time to introduce yourself and your talents.
- Folks appreciate the craftsmanship, handiwork and kitchen talents of local artists.
- The market gives you a prime retail space at the main intersection of town each week.
- You set your own prices...earn a fair dollar for your labors.
- You meet, greet and share with other vendors who have similar interests and talents.
- When you share the blessings of your gardening, kitchen talents and artistry at the market...
 - ...you offer a fresh, healthier option for consumers
 - ...you allow customers to appreciate and compliment your talents.
 - ...you help keep our dollars local, stimulating our local economy
 - ...you bring the community together on Saturday mornings
- **In 2026 the 56 market vendors had total market sales of more than \$40,000.**
- **In 2026 the market averaged 17 vendors and 4,800 shoppers.**

Why we do what we do:

We often hear, "how much will this cost me?" and vendors are shocked to hear we are not in this for a profit. We do it to serve the mind, body and spirit of our community in the name of God. We only ask vendors to help with a small part of the costs by charging a small fee for booth space, and table rental. Our planning team reviews business development, market opportunities and new ideas. We look forward to serving you further with this information.

Additional questions may be directed to Hazel Lautzenheiser (260-849-0527), bernefarmersmarket@gmail.com or through Facebook via the Das Marit page.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about das MärIt Farmers & Artists Market!

Blessings,
Hazel Lautzenheiser
das MärIt Vendor Coordinator
(260) 589-3885
thlautzenheiser@comcast.net

(2-25-26)

dasMarit

Farmers & Artists Market

2026 Market Handbook

A. Mission

dasMarit Farmers & Artists Market exists to serve the Mind, Body and Spirit of our community in the name of God.

There is a no-smoking policy throughout the market at all times.

B. 2026 Season

The market will operate on the following

May 9 – August 29 8:00 AM - Noon (21 Saturdays)

September 5 – October 3 9:00 AM – Noon (5 Saturdays)

C. 2026 Rental Fees

Vendor Stall space: There will be a \$2 charge for a typical 10' X 10' booth space.

Vendors needing a larger or a double space will be charged \$2 for each additional booth space. Vendors may reserve a specific stall space for future market days by paying *an additional \$2 (non-returnable & non-redeemable)* reservation fee for each market day being reserved. Oversized canopies will be placed in end spaces to accommodate the overhang.

Table rental: In order to maintain table availability for vendors, there will be a small rental fee. Table rental is optional and vendors may bring their own tables.

Table rental is \$2 per table used. (Vendors should bring their own chairs.)

D. Market Day Schedule

NOTE: (Sept. 5 thru Oct. 3 – 1 hour later for set-up and market opening)

6:30 AM	Volunteers arrive & begin market setup
7:00 AM	Vendors may register for the day and begin setting up
7:30 AM	Reserved Stall Vendors considered “No Show” at this time their reserved space may be given to another vendor.
7:45 AM	No vehicular traffic in the Market Area
7:55 AM	Vendor meeting and opening prayer
8:00 AM	Market Opens – sales may begin.
11:30 AM	Vendors may begin discounting goods
NOON	Closing of the Market –Vehicular traffic may re-enter the Market area and vendors may pack up
12:30 PM	All stalls should be cleared & cleaned up

E. Market Sponsor

dasMarit is sponsored by First Mennonite Church. As owner of the market location, any unforeseen sponsor events take precedence over the activities of the Market. We will attempt to contact all registered vendors in event of a Market conflict. At this time, there are no known Saturdays in the season when the parking lot will be needed.

F. Market Committee

The Market Committee determines Vendor Handbook policies, with guidance and direction from First Mennonite, the community and vendors and support from Adams County Health Department. All vendors will be provided a Vendor Handbook. By applying to be a vendor at the Market a vendor agrees to follow the rules set forth in the Market Handbook.

The Market Committee also performs the following:

- Interprets and institutes the handbook
- Advertises the market and requests funds and donation throughout the community
- Designates stall layout
- Obtains needed supplies (e.g. trash bags, tables, dolly, horse pads, shovel, broom, etc.)
- Plans special events in order to draw customers to the market
- Answers questions from vendors during the week

Market Advisors: Jeanne Frank and Becky (Kent) Lehman

Vendor Coordinator: Hazel Lautzenheiser

Information Coordinator: Becky (Kent) Lehman 260-849-0065

bernefarmersmarket@gmail.com

G. Market Master – 2026 – Jack Sloan

The Market Committee will appoint a Market Master to oversee the Market, vendors, and volunteers on Saturday mornings. The Market Master has the authority to carry out the rules in the Vendor Handbook.

The Market Master will be responsible for the following:

- Direct volunteers
- Direct vendors to assigned positions and interact with vendors
- Lead the Opening Meeting and declare the Market open
- Direct teardown at the close of Market and store items owned by the Market in the church
- Inspect randomly products offered & request Bills of Sale or proof of local purchase at any time
- Monitor fair pricing practices
- Conduct an ongoing inspection of all vendor products to maintain quality
- Resolve any vendor requests or disputes during a Market morning
- Seek and share input from vendors and customers with the Market Committee regularly.

If the Market Committee and/or the Market Master believe that a vendor is not operating “in the spirit of the Market” the Market Master reserves the right to ask a vendor to leave immediately.

H. General Vendor Responsibilities

All vendors must have a current signed “Vendor Application” and” Liability Release” form on file and pay rental fees before setting up for Market.

Each year on a vendor's first Market day the vendor will be assigned a vendor number and given a vendor placard to be visibly displayed at their stall each market day. The placard is to be returned to the "information table" at the end of each day and will be reissued to the vendor each market day.

Vendors are encouraged to park their vehicles on the East side of the church during Market hours to allow more parking for shoppers.

Each vendor is expected to fairly price their goods. Undercutting of prices and "dumping" of product is prohibited. Complaints by other vendors will result in review by the Market Master.

Vendors will supply their own displays and signage for their stalls. Signage information should include vendor name, prices, and vendor address. All displays and signage must be kept within the designated area and should be tastefully displayed.

No crying out or "hawking" of products will be allowed. Vendors will in no way cause detriment to other vendors. Vendors should be courteous to other vendors and to the public at all times. Vendors and their agents, employees and representatives should maintain a neat and clean personal appearance.

I. Vendor Specific Guidelines

Vendors are responsible for following all State and County Health Department sanitation and health guidelines and must follow all laws of the state and county in which the Market is held. Home based food vendors (HBV) must have a Safe Food Handlers Certificate on file with the Health Department as well as a copy to be held by the Market Coordinator.

The following are guidelines with respect to specific types of vendors or displays relating to the above vendor product mix category.

1. Locally Grown – from the Field

Fruits and vegetables sold should be in season and grown in Adams and surrounding counties. Growers outside this radius will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a vendor is selling items they have not grown personally, they must provide a local sale of receipt upon request.

Special das Marit request to vendors: Please do not apply insecticides or pesticides the 3 days prior to or after harvesting your produce for Market.

Acceptable Locally Grown Products:

Fruit	Nuts*	Herbs	Trees
Vegetables	Firewood*	Honey shrubs	Plants
Eggs**_	Flowers, cut or dried		

* Must be local and infestation free

** Eggs must present Certification from the local Egg Board

The sale of live animals is not permitted.

2. Locally Prepared Food Products – from the Kitchen

NOTE: Vendors should direct specific food product, production or preparation questions to the Adams County Health Dept. - Tara Wolfrum Food Inspector. They are located at 313 Jefferson St. room 314 Decatur, IN 46733 - Phone 260-724-5326 email: twolfrum@co.adams.in.us

Vendors selling prepared foods at their stall may only do so after approval by the Market Master or the Market Committee.

Vendor Status Commercial or Home Based Vendor?

- A. Commercial vendor** – has acquired the proper inspections and license from their local health department and is required to display this license at all times in a highly visible manner
- B. Home Based Vendor** – is only selling at a roadside stand and/or farmers market. You have read and fully understand the details of this vendor status as defined by the State of Indiana and agree to comply with all the regulations. Signs and labeling must be appropriately marked as a non-inspected facility vendor as required by the State of Indiana. Food Safe Handler certificate must be displayed. You are also responsible for understanding the limitation of this status.

Acceptable Locally Prepared Products:

Jams ***	Dried foods	Baked goods	Cereals	Granola
Jellies ***	Cider	Desserts	Muesli	Molasses
Preserves ***				

*** Canned foods must prepared using boiling water or pressure canned process. “Cream” baked goods are not permitted.

The Market Committee is working hard to insure the items available at the Market are of the highest quality. Items should be of higher quality, wholesome, a value and unique in comparison to what is readily available. Packaging of items will also be a consideration. We ask that you put forth an effort to provide appealing packaging with appropriate labeling.

Health Department labeling requirements are: Producer’s name and mailing address, common name of food, ingredients of the food in descending order, net weight or volume, the date produced and the following statement – “This product is home produced and processed, and the production area has not been inspected by the state department of health. NOT FOR RESALE.”

All prepared foods should be prepared by the Vendor. No reselling is allowed. Vendors should follow all Indiana State and Adams County sanitation guidelines for food preparation, storage and sales. The Market Committee or Market Master will be allowed to question the processes followed and may disallow any food product, for any reason, at any time. Additionally, all Market Master inspection requests must be honored in a timely fashion.

Ingredients (grains, fruit, vegetable, honey, etc.) in prepared food products should be locally grown when the season permits.

C. Artists & Craftsmen – from the Studio

Artisans selling products may only do so with approval by the Market Committee. Artisans may be commercial or noncommercial, but the artisan should be present on Market Day. On the rare occasion that the artist is not available a knowledgeable representative may be accepted.

All arts and crafts products must be produced by the vendor. No resale of products is allowed. “Heritage” or “primitive” arts are also encouraged. “Country crafts”, “kit” crafts and other “assembly line” craft product sales which are of questionable artistic merit are discouraged.

Acceptable Art Products include:

weaving	woodwork	drawing and other forms of illustration
pottery	painting	floral arrangements (e.g. grapevine wreath
carvings	fine metal work	and dried flowers) all components grown
sculpture	paper arts	by the vendor

Displays should be original and respectful of the “spirit of the Market”.

D. Community Tables

In order to set up at the Community Tables the vendor must be a non-profit organization or a non-profit activity of a for-profit group (e.g. providing educational information free to the public.)

Table displays must be provided by the participating organization. Displays should include information regarding the name, group’s mission and purpose of the table.

Events run by a participating organization taking place away from the table require special permission and review by the Market Committee. Permission will be granted on a case by case basis.

das MärIt

FARMERS & ARTISTS MARKET

2026 VENDOR APPLICATION

Vendor Name: _____	Doing Business As: _____
Mailing Address: _____	Zip Code: _____
Email address: _____	
Primary Phone: _____	Alternate Phone: _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL APPLICABLE OF THE FOLLOWING VENDOR CATEGORIES:			ADVANCE STALL RESERVATION:				
<input type="checkbox"/> from the FARM locally grown fruit, vegetables, herbs, plants, trees, shrubs, flowers, grains, nuts, honey, firewood, eggs, worms, cornstalks, hay/straw	<input type="checkbox"/> from the KITCHEN locally prepared jams, jellies, preserves, pickled produce, salsa (commercial only) wholesome baked goods, desserts, dried foods, cereals, granola, muesli, cider, molasses (Commercial or HBV)	<input type="checkbox"/> from the STUDIO locally handcrafted fine arts, heritage and primitive arts, weaving, pottery, carvings, sculpture, woodwork, paper arts, drawing, painting, glass works Quality Workmanship Market Approved _____	May:	9	16	23	30
			June:	6	13	20	27
			July:	4	11	18	25
			Aug:	1	8	15	22 29
			Sept:	5	12	19	26
			Oct:	3			
			Total Weeks: _____ Amount Due: \$ _____				
<i>*Please refer to the Vendor Handbook for specific details on vendor guidelines.</i>			Stall reservations are paid in advance.				

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MARKET MANAGEMENT

The Market Committee determines the Handbook policies, with guidance and direction from First Mennonite, the community and vendors. All vendors will be provided a Handbook. By applying to be a vendor at the market, vendors agree to follow rules set forth in Handbook. The Market Committee will appoint a Market Master to oversee the market, vendors and volunteers. The Market Master has the authority to carry out the rules in the Handbook.

I received a Handbook Yes No Initials: _____ Date: _____

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH VENDOR RELEASE FORM

I have signed and dated the release form which must be provided to the market prior to initial vendor setup.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ (2/22/26)

Food vendors see back

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH VENDOR RELEASE FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Today's Date: _____

Vendor Contact Information

Name (Hereinafter "Vendor" or "the Vendor"): _____

Street Address: _____ **City:** _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Email:** _____

Telephone: _____ **Cell** _____ **Home** _____ **Work** _____

RELEASE

Please read this information carefully before signing below!

This release and waiver of liability is in favor of, and shall inure to the benefit of, First Mennonite Church of Berne, Indiana, Inc., ("First Mennonite Church") and its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, assigns, and any and all persons or entities on First Mennonite Church's behalf who may be liable (collectively, its "representatives") and, further, shall be binding upon the undersigned and his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors, and assigns. The Vendor desires to engage in any and all activities related to being a vendor at the das Marit Farmers & Artists Market ("the Market") on the premises of First Mennonite Church. Such activities may include but not be limited to: Travel to and from the church; loading and unloading goods and materials to be sold or offered for sale at the Market; set-up and tear-down of booths, tables, and chairs; working in close proximity to moving motor vehicles; and interacting with the general public and individuals who may or may not be associated with First Mennonite Church. The Vendor understands that his/her engaging in the Vendor's activities may expose the Vendor to dangers from both known and unanticipated risks.

Release, Waiver, and Assumption of Risk. Acknowledging that such risks exist, and for and in consideration of the permission granted by First Mennonite Church to the Vendor to engage in the Vendor's activities, the Vendor does hereby FULLY and FINALLY RELEASE and DISCHARGE First Mennonite Church and its representatives from and INDEMNIFY and HOLD HARMLESS First Mennonite Church and its representatives from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, causes of action, suits (whether at law or equity or otherwise), and/or liability of whatsoever kind or nature or in connection therewith (including without limitation attorneys' fees and court costs that may be incurred by First Mennonite Church) arising or resulting from, or in any manner related to the Vendor's engaging in the Volunteer's activities, including (but not limited to) personal injury (including death) and/or loss of or damage to property caused in whole or in part by the negligence of First Mennonite Church or its representatives or otherwise. The Vendor recognizes, therefore, that if he/she is hurt and/or his/her property is lost, damaged, or stolen while engaged in the Vendor's activities, the Vendor will have no right, and hereby waives the right, to make a claim or file a lawsuit against First Mennonite Church or any of its representatives, even if First Mennonite Church or any of its representatives caused the injury or property damage or loss.

The Vendor hereby understands that the Vendor's activities may include work that may be hazardous to the Vendor and/or the Vendor's property, including, without limitation, loading and unloading, set-up and tear-down of booths, operating power tools and equipment, theft, vandalism, and transportation to and from the Market.

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The Vendor hereby expressly and specifically assumes the risk of injury or harm to his/her person, including death, and the risk of damage to or loss of personal property during the Vendor's activities and hereby releases First Mennonite Church and its representatives from any duty or obligation owed to the Vendor. The Vendor understands and fully recognizes that this Release discharges First Mennonite Church and its representatives from any liability or claim that the Vendor may have against First Mennonite Church with respect to any bodily or personal injury, including death, or property damage or loss that may result from or arise out of Vendor's activities with the Market, whether caused by First Mennonite Church's negligence or otherwise, The Vendor hereby releases and forever discharges First Mennonite Church and any of its representatives from any claim whatsoever which may arise or result from any first-aid treatment or medical service rendered In connection with Vendor's activities.

Other- Vendor expressly agrees that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by Indiana law and that this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with Indiana law. Vendor agrees that in the event that any clause or provision of this Release shall be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of this Release, which shall continue to be enforceable.

In witness whereof Vendor, the undersigned, has executed this Release in Berne, Indiana, on the date written above.

Vendor Signature

(Signature of parent or guardian if minor)

Vendor Printed Name

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FOOD VENDORS

The Indiana Department of Health has specific requirements, as explained in HEA 1149, which became effective July 1, 2022. This act reorganizes provisions concerning the sale of certain food products by an individual vendor at a farmers' market or roadside stand. The most pertinent change includes the requirement of obtaining a food handler certificate for all HBVs (Home Based Vendors).

Those selling the following products are included in this requirement:

- Baked items such as cookies, cupcakes, cake pops, bread and muffins
- Candy and confections such as chocolates, nougats, caramels, and chocolate covered nuts
- Whole and uncut produce
- Tree nuts and legumes
- Honey, molasses, sorghum and maple syrup
- Mushrooms grown as a product of agriculture (with the recommendation that those selling wild mushrooms be licensed by a mushroom identification expert)
- Traditional jams, jellies and preserves made from high-acid fruits and using full sugar recipes (this is the only canned food allowed)

Das Marit requires each food vendor to register his/her certificate when completing the market application. Each vendor must plainly display the certificate at his/her booth. A copy should be filed with Adams County Health Department.

To access the Safe Food Handlers Certificate information, regarding the instruction and test, vendors **should go to the Adams County Health Department web site** (<https://www.co.adams.in.us/181/Health-Department>). Scroll to the bottom where it lists Quick Links and there select Food Handler's License. (There are two designations the Management license is not required for market vendors.) There is a fee for this instruction and certificate. *The Berne Public Library has agreed to allow use of their computers for this instruction and test completion. The library asks for a reservation, made by calling there, due to the extended time needed for this activity. (260-589-2809)*

Additional information from the Adams County Health Inspector:

- Food products must be displayed off the ground (on a tarp or raised platform)
- Samples must be covered with a sneeze guard and tongs must be used and vendors need a one day permit from ACHD
- Pet food treats need a permit from IN State Chemist

Upon request copies of frequently asked questions and HEA 1149 can be provided to you. Please direct additional questions to Becky Lehman (260-849-0065) or Hazel Lautzenheiser (260-849-0527)

Safe Food Handler Certificate

Name on Certificate _____ Date Issued _____

Certificate Number _____ Expiration Date _____

I have recorded this certificate with Adams County Health Department

I have NOT recorded this certificate with Adams County Health Department

I have scheduled to take the class with the test for this certificate

on _____ at _____

Please display your Safe Food Handler Certificate at your vendor table.