

# Farmers Market Tips

First time at the market? Here are 10 helpful tips so you can have the best experience possible.



## 10 Tips for a Successful Marathon County Market Visit



“ Did you grow this yourself? ”

“ Where is your farm located? ”

### Things to know before going to a market



#### PRICES

Vendors set prices with great care, so prices at Marathon County markets are firm. Attempts to barter could offend the vendors who put many hours of labor into their products - they will offer you a discounted price if it is warranted.

#### BAGS

Plastic bags are usually provided to customers but please feel free to bring your own cloth bag.

#### PETS

It is best for everyone at the market if you refrain from bringing pets into the market area. Markets can be chaotic and this can be stressful for pets.

#### SEASONAL

Get to know what's in season in your area so you know what to expect. See the "in-season calendar" on the left side of our website to learn more.

#### RIPE OR NOT?

In the grocery store, we tend to hold/squeeze fruit to check if it is ripe enough to purchase. Farmers' market fruit is selectively picked at its prime, so you can buy fruit assuming it is ripe or will be within a day. Bruising can make it difficult for the vendor to sell later.

#### TALK

Ask questions about the produce you purchase. The vendors are eager to help their customers and have great ideas for how to best prepare their product.

#### SAMPLES

Try samples if they are obviously being offered and ask if they are not. If you have children, watch to make sure they don't sneak any food and reimburse the vendor as needed.

#### PARKING

Please park in designated areas and avoid driving in between the vendor stalls or through the main market aisle as this causes many safety concerns.

#### ASK

Ask the vendors where their product came from. If you want to ensure you are purchasing local food- by your definition of local- just politely ask the farmers.

#### FLOWERS

Market flowers are typically sold at a price that does not include the vase so be sure to bring a vase with water if you need an easier way to transport the flowers in your car. If you would like a vase, ask if there is a price the vendor would be comfortable selling you the vase for.