



Vendors with Farmers' Market Food Product Sampling Handler Certificate

Promoting a Safer and Healthier Community Since 1854

Effective July 20, 2015, the Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act was amended to include Food Product Sampling at Farmers' Markets and the Illinois Food Service Sanitation Code now includes Subpart N, 750.4300 Food Product Sampling Handler Certificate for Farmers Markets.

Any qualified vendor at a Farmers' Market who would like to sample their products without a separate permit to operate in our county may do so as long as they have a valid Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Farmers Market Food Sampling Handler Certificate and a valid Winnebago County Health Department Certificate of Registration.

HOW TO OBTAIN WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION?

- **Step 1 Determine if qualified for Winnebago County Health Department Certificate of Registration?**
Qualified vendors are approved vendors at the Farmers' Market covered by the organizer's permit. Typically, vendors selling shelf-stable unprocessed fresh fruits and vegetables, nuts, fresh herbs and commercially pre-packaged baked goods. Please be aware commissary is required. This registration form must be submitted with an updated Winnebago County Farmer's Market Licensed Kitchen Sharing Agreement for those vendors with a commissary under different ownership. For out of county vendors, similar documentation will be required with the approval of their respective local Health Department.
- **Step 2 Obtain an IDPH Farmers Market Food Product Sampling Handler Certificate.**
For questions in obtaining IDPH certificate, go to dph.food@illinois.gov. A free training course can be accessed here: <https://i.train.org> Course number 1061218. This certificate can be used throughout the state and is valid for three (3) years from date of issuance.
- **Step 3 Register with the Winnebago County Health Department.**
Register with our county after receiving IDPH Farmers Market Food Product Sampling Handler Certificate. The registration form may be downloaded from our website by clicking [here](#). Send a completed and signed registration form along with IDPH Farmers' Market Food Product Sampling Handler Certificate and \$25 registration fee to:

Winnebago County Health Department
401 Division Street
P.O. Box 4009
Rockford, IL 61110-0509
- **Step 4 Winnebago County Health Department reviews all the submitted information.**
Plan reviewer may contact the qualified vendor for additional information if necessary.
- **Step 5 Winnebago County Health Department approves the qualified vendor to sample.**
Certificate of Registration will be mailed to the qualified vendor which should be prominently displayed in the booth at the point of sale otherwise the booth will be subjected to inspection with a fee.

For any questions, please contact our plan reviewer, Karen Hobbs, at 1-815-720-4115.

For more information, visit our website at: www.wchd.org Contact us by phone at: 815-720-4000
or by mail at: Winnebago County Health Department, PO Box 4009, Rockford, Illinois 61110
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

