

# *Certified Farmers' Markets*

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## *Summary of Basic Information for Certified Producers*

Certified Producer (Producer)—is a grower who sells agricultural products of their own production at Certified Farmers' Markets (CFM) directly to the consumer. The Producer will be issued a Certified Producer Certificate (CPC) listing all the products grown by the Producer. The CPC will be issued after an on-site inspection of the growing grounds by an Orange County Agricultural Inspector to verify that all products presented for sale are grown by the Producer.

The CPC must be conspicuously posted on the seller's booth at the CFM for potential buyers to read. The CPC is applicable only to the Producer/CFM program and is not required for sales directly from the farm.

Certified Farmers' Market (CFM)—is a market which is comprised of many Producers at one site offering a variety of agricultural products. Only Certified Producers are allowed to participate in CFM's. Other types of sellers may participate adjacent to the CFM at the discretion of the market operator. The CFM allows the Producer and consumer to be connected directly across the sales counter. Producers benefit from direct sales to customers, without the expense of a middle man, and consumers are able to purchase fresh produce from the person who grows it. Sales between Producers are not allowed. A Producer cannot buy agricultural products from another producer to sell to the public or anyone else.

The potential Producer should contact the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner Office to arrange for an on-site inspection of the growing grounds. The crops must be up and growing to a point at which they can be identified before an appointment for the inspection will be made. This inspection will verify that the products listed on the Certificate are in fact grown by the Producer. The Orange County Agricultural Commissioner Office will issue embossed copies of the CPC. Certificates are valid for the calendar year in which they are issued and must be renewed annually. The basic fee is \$35 per year for one embossed copy.

It is the responsibility of the Producer to contact the appropriate CFM operator(s) and apply for membership to sell at the market. A list of Orange County CFM operators and their contact information is available on our website, see the link below.

The majority of produce is sold by weight, although this is not a requirement. It is the responsibility of the Producer to obtain a scale that is certified for this specific commercial use. Before you buy a scale, be sure to check the link below to make sure you buy one that is approved for commercial use. Scales must be registered and sealed by the County Agricultural Sealer of Weights and Measures.

If any product sold at a CFM is pre-packaged in bags or other containers, it must be properly labeled with the Identity of the product, the contact information of the person Responsible for the product and the Quantity of product in the container. This is known by the acronym--IRQ.

If a Producer plans to produce and sell nursery stock, they will need to obtain a License to Sell Nursery Stock. The License to Sell Nursery Stock has a minimum annual fee of \$125.00 and is issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Nursery license

applications are available through the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner Office, or from the CDFA website.

CFM's are governed by State regulations which are enforced by the County Agricultural Commissioner Office. The respective CFM Boards of Directors have also developed rules to govern the members of their particular markets. It is the responsibility of the Producer to comply with all State and CFM Board rules.

Herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides are all different types of pesticides. Producers who use any type of pesticide (including organic pesticides) must obtain a Pesticide Operator Identification Number from the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner Office prior to the purchase and application of pesticides. Use of all agricultural pesticides must be reported to the County Agriculture Department by the 10th of the month following use.

Organic—is a term that is regulated by the California Organic Foods Act of 2003. In order for someone to use the term organic, they must comply with all the regulations contained in this act. The most basic requirement for the user of the term organic is to be registered with the California Department of Food & Agriculture's State Organic Program (CDFA SOP); the registration application is done online at the CDFA website, see link below. The minimum registration fee is \$75.00 and must be renewed annually. If the sales from the organic operation exceed \$5,000 per year, then the operation must also be "certified" by a third party organization which ensures that all required aspects of California Organic Foods Act of 2003 have been met. Applications for organic registration are available and processed through the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner Office. While many organic producers are participants in the CFM program, organic producers selling through venues other than CFM's do not need to be a Producer, but they must be registered as organic producers.

#### **Contact Information:**

#### **Orange County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures**

222 E. Bristol Lane

Orange, CA 92865-2714

Phone: (714) 955-0100 Fax: (714) 955-0125

[www.ocagcomm.com](http://www.ocagcomm.com) **General Information**

<http://ocagcomm.com/services/markets> **Link to list of O.C. CFMs**

<http://ocagcomm.com/forms/> **Orange County Nursery License Application**

#### **California Department of Food & Agriculture**

1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

916-654-0466 (Sacramento) General Information

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i & c/cfm.html> **CDFA Certified Farmers' Market Program**

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i & c/organic.html> **CDFA Organic Program, and a link to the online organic registration.**

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/ctep/ctep.html> **CDFA DMS Approved Scales 'look up' link**