

## **Suggested Insurance Coverage**

No business should operate without the proper insurance. The right coverage provides protection for both the business owner and the customer. In today's litigious society no one should gamble with their livelihood. There are two types of insurance purchased by farmers' markets and/or farmers' market vendors – overall liability (slip and fall) and product liability. Below is a basic description of the two types:

### Liability

Liability insurance covers the market for accidents that may occur at the market during business hours, such as customer falls and injuries.

### Product liability

Product liability policies cover the individual vendors from liability from the products they have sold.

If someone becomes ill due to your product or slips and falls due to your negligence, you must have the proper coverage to protect yourself. Any farm, regardless of size, is a business. Whether products produced on the farm are sold at a roadside stand or at a local farmer's market, insurance should be considered a standard part of the cost of doing business.

If you have a homeowner policy now, it can be converted to a farm owner policy. Unless endorsed, be aware that homeowner policies exclude liability for businesses, such as farming, even if incidental. Farm insurance rates are very competitive with homeowner rates. You would have everything that you currently have with the homeowner policy plus you would have farm and product liability.

Virtually all of Connecticut's Farmer's Markets now require that all market participants provide a certificate of insurance showing that a minimum liability limit of \$300,000 is in place. Insurance is frequently a large expense. Markets are encouraged to fully understand the policy they are purchasing and shop around for the best coverage and rates. The kind of policy your market should purchase and how much coverage you need should be discussed with an insurance professional.

The individual market should be listed on the certificate. Certificates are provided by your farm insurance agent at minimum or no cost.

Be properly covered, your farm could depend on it.

For further information contact the Connecticut Department of Agriculture:  
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