

# Ann Arbor Farmers Market Vendor Survey Regarding Market Hours and Attendance






## 1. Please choose your vendor category:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Producer		76.5%	65
Artisan		22.4%	19
Food Cart Vendor		1.2%	1
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>85</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>




## 2. Please choose your vendor status:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Annual Vendor (I have a permanent stall in the market)		52.9%	45
Daily Vendor (I do not have a permanently assigned stall in the market)		47.1%	40
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>85</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>




**3. The current operating rules state: “Vendors shall attend Market from open to close (7 a.m. or 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.) on a Market day that they are in attendance.”**

		Response Percent	Response Count
I agree with this rule as written		61.9%	52
I disagree with this rule as written		31.0%	26
I am neutral toward this rule		7.1%	6
Additional Comments:			43
answered question			84
skipped question			1

**4. The current operating rules further state: “Leaving early from Market without providing the Market Manager with a reasonable explanation may result in loss of attendance for that day. Reasonable explanations for leaving early include, but are not limited to selling out of food or products, extreme weather, and schedule conflicts.”**

		Response Percent	Response Count
I agree with this rule as written		69.4%	59
I disagree with this rule as written		23.5%	20
I am neutral toward this rule		7.1%	6
Additional Comments:			35
answered question			85
skipped question			0



**5. The current operating rules give the following market hours: The Market shall be open:  
 January 1 – April 30 Dates: Saturdays (except for New Year’s Day) Hours: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
 May 1 – December 31 Dates: Wednesdays and Saturdays (except for Christmas Day)  
 Hours: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
I agree with these hours as written		67.5%	56
I disagree with these hours as written		24.1%	20
I am neutral about these market hours		8.4%	7
	Additional Comments:		35
	answered question		83
	skipped question		2

**6. Please provide any other feedback you have as it relates to the market hours and the rule requiring vendors to attend the market during all market hours.**

	Response Count
	38
answered question	38
skipped question	47

**7. If you would like to provide your name and contact information, please do so (this is optional):**

		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>Vendor Name:</b>		<b>100.0%</b>	<b>52</b>
Vendor Phone or Email:		78.8%	41
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>52</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>33</b>



**Q3. The current operating rules state: "Vendors shall attend Market from open to close (7 a.m. or 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.) on a Market day that they are in attendance."**

1	others markets in area do not let cars in or out early.	Aug 13, 2013 6:20 PM
2	Possibly allow for some leeway during the last hour.	Aug 13, 2013 9:43 AM
3	I would prefer that people stay however if someone has only minimal produce left and its after 1:30 I don't mind if they start packing at that time and leave a little early. Don't believe anyone, unless completely sold out should leave at 12 or 12:30.	Aug 13, 2013 9:42 AM
4	I've been on the market for over 50 years. Please leave closing time at 3pm.	Aug 13, 2013 9:39 AM
5	We believe it should be the farmers decision of when to leave the market on any given market day. It all depends on how many customers are walking through the market, how much produce is left, the weather and other commitments.	Aug 13, 2013 9:38 AM
6	Vendor has paid stall fees regardless of how long they stay. Vendor should have the right to leave when they choose and receive credit for attendance.	Aug 13, 2013 9:36 AM
7	I would like to keep the market hours the same but allow for vendors to use their own discretion if they have to leave.	Aug 13, 2013 8:37 AM
8	Being involved in the farmers market is like a grocery store... if the store closed early... wouldn't the general public be notified... I don't think the staff abuse's this rule ...ie if the staff is notified with the proper info... then when the consumer looking or asking for that vender, they could or would have a good answer for them... it's just common curtesy	Aug 12, 2013 10:07 AM
9	I understand the purpose of this rule, so that you can be open to more people, but we hardly make any money after noon. Also, because the hours are so long, we lose an entire day of work at the farm. It would be easier to justify if we were profitable all day, but it becomes difficult as crowds dwindle after lunch.	Aug 12, 2013 8:28 AM
10	It should be considered that a vendor spends many hours preparing for the market and is there to make money and sell their products, but the hours are longer than most markets. A vendor should at least have to stay until 1pm unless they have schedule conflicts, and the market could still be open until 3pm. Or, shorten the day to 2 pm.	Aug 11, 2013 7:02 PM
11	I have found that since this has been enforced as of late, that it seems like more customers are coming later in the day. I have almost always stayed to end myself and it appears more come later. good rule.	Aug 10, 2013 5:44 AM
12	i know its a long hard day but i have found that by staying i have made more money. also when every one leaves early it starts to get earlier and earlier. we post the hours for the public i think we should stay or shorten the hours.	Aug 9, 2013 5:35 PM
13	Our Birthday was just celebrated 93 yrs. and the market hours have been the same for all those years. Why change the hours because a handful of vendors are complaining. Quite a few annual vendors rely on the 3 pm closing for extra sales.	Aug 9, 2013 3:22 PM
14	3 pm is a long day, especially for a produce vendor. Usually by 12 our stuff starts to look pretty wilted and sad. Even though we haven't technically "sold out," we	Aug 9, 2013 7:32 AM

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usually make the call sometime before 3 that what we do have left is not salable due to poor quality. We don't want to compromise our reputation for having high quality produce by sticking around just because the rules say we have to sell out. I would say make the market hours shorter, but I know some vendors, even producers, would be upset about that. I do think the rule should apply to a vendor with durable goods, i.e. artisans, or those selling foods like honey, frozen meat or sauces. It's not fair for someone with a product that can last all day to take up a stall in prime real estate, and then leave early. Because really no one likes to move their stall once market is underway. It's a hassle, we hardly ever do it. So that empty stall ends up being empty all day. So maybe the rule could just be more flexible for those selling fresh produce only.

15	We are Adults. We know our customers. No other market is eight hours long. We pay to have our booth there. If we feel people are not buying after a certain time, it is ridiculous to stand around. Time is money and should be up to the individual vendor when it is time to depart for the day. Market manager should be there to oversee not micro-manage people.	Aug 8, 2013 7:00 PM
16	If I run out of the product that I wish to sell, I believe that I should be able to leave and get other work done instead just hanging around selling the dredges. This makes it more difficult for smaller producers to maintain their presence at market.	Aug 8, 2013 1:29 PM
17	I would like a year-round start time of 8am for simplicity's sake!	Aug 8, 2013 11:47 AM
18	Vendors only have to attend market full hours 15 times a year! Then they can come and go as they please (There are 86 Market days in 2013).	Aug 8, 2013 11:40 AM
19	If vendors leave early, it hurts other vendors and the viability of the market in the afternoon.	Aug 8, 2013 11:26 AM
20	The hours of our market are perfect, please don't change them. I believe we need a long day to sell our produce because we have business all day long. Vendors should be required to stay until close or sold out. A collective of small business like at Briarwood Mall must open and close at certain hours, this is for the benefit of the whole group not an individual.	Aug 7, 2013 5:55 PM
21	We believe that the general public orients their schedule around what we advertise and it is best to maintain that schedule so as not to disappoint the customers. If we generally don't care for those hours then we should make the change at the systemic level not by adhoc personal choice. We need to build loyalty in the public around our own disciplined response to our market choice.	Aug 7, 2013 9:32 AM
22	This survey item as it is written conflicts with #5 below	Aug 7, 2013 2:45 AM
23	I know of vendors who have stopped coming to the Wed market due to this rule. Customers will shop with who is there and there is plenty of variety-whether vendors come and go during the day or not. If you have already lost vendors due to the rule then you are not accomplishing anything by making the existing vendors stay longer. Customers may also "learn" what time of day is most plentiful with vendors. The vendors are paying for the stand for the whole day...it's should be up to them if they would like to utilize the space for the entire	Aug 6, 2013 5:52 AM

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day or part of it. Some of us are farmers and have more work to do when we get back to the farm. 3pm is extremely difficult.

24	Winter weather is pretty darn cold sometimes. If no customers why should you be forced to stay and freeze until 3:00. It should be my choice if I want to make the extra \$20.00. And besides There are alot of days in the summer when there are to many vendors and you get forced into a bad location to sell your product.	Aug 5, 2013 7:48 PM
25	3 is to late in the day to be mandatory. I feel 2 would be better with an option to stay till 3. I consistently have next to no sales between 2-3 p.m.	Aug 5, 2013 7:29 PM
26	Let's face it: Any transaction between customer and seller is a negotiated event. When the buyer is not buying (or not showing up after two o'clock) there is no arguing with him! This has always been the case. Other markets accept this, why not Ann Arbor? The old rule seemed to work---vendors had to stay to one or until goods were mostly sold out. Vendors who were still selling could stay until three. It worked because it was sensible.	Aug 5, 2013 7:30 AM
27	The market has been open until 3:00 for nearly 100 years. People are used to coming in the afternoon and it would be confusing for them if we suddenly decide to close earlier just because it would be more convenient for a few vendors. We ought to put our customers first.	Aug 4, 2013 4:23 PM
28	These rules have been in place for 94 years and I believe it would be against the public's interest to change now. It will only cause confusion to change them.	Aug 4, 2013 8:38 AM
29	I think leaving earlier than 3:00 will leave costumers feeling frustrated and angry! I feel that there will be just a handful of venders that will take advantage of the " schedule conflict rule "!. The sad part is that there is no way of proving it !	Aug 4, 2013 8:13 AM
30	I would like to see 3 p.m. changed to 2 p.m.. There are very few customers in the aisles after 2 p.m. even when all/most vendors stay until 3 p.m. That 2-3 p.m. time-to-shop doesn't seem to be utilized by the public. It makes a long-day-for-vendors longer than seems useful.	Aug 3, 2013 5:34 AM
31	Getting up at 3:00 am, by 1:30-2:00 I have had it. I am almost sold out by then, and would like to go home if I want, without having to ask permission .	Aug 3, 2013 4:27 AM
32	I feel the winter hours should be changed to 9 to 2 or 3. This should begin starting in December. Most customers don't get up early when it is cold out.	Aug 2, 2013 5:51 PM
33	Businesses have stated business hours and they remain open for them. It is not fair to customers if they come and there are only a smattering of vendors left. Many vendors have left early in the past because they were bored or tired. Most are now staying, and have gotten over it. Only a few seem truly unhappy with having to stay.	Aug 2, 2013 4:20 PM
34	The part I disagree with is the 3 pm closing time.	Aug 2, 2013 10:48 AM
35	The Ann Arbor Farmer's Market is a market based on the principle of positive feedback. The more vendors that attend the market, the more customers are attracted to the market to shop. The more customers that attend the market, the	Aug 2, 2013 9:23 AM



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more vendors that are attracted to the market to sell. What this system produces, vendors = customers, customers = vendors, is mutually beneficial on both parts. This applies not only to daily market attendance, but to ALL hours that the market is in operation. When vendors choose to leave early (e.g., 1pm), the net impact is a detriment to the remaining vendors who stay until close. When vendors stay the entire time, the net impact is a positive benefit to all other vendors, and market shoppers or potential shoppers.

36	Leave it the way it has been. Only Sarah is upset with this rule. We are her customers and the customers she says are complaining are our customers. Sarah is too rigid, the world is not black and white, there are many shades of gray. She has not even been on the job for a 1 1/2 and she is trying to change things that have worked very well until she came along. She is the 5th. Market Master in 20 years and Market Masters seem to use this position to get better jobs with the city. So right now we are dealing with another new market master...sigh.	Aug 2, 2013 4:03 AM
37	It is distressing to customers who come to shop between 1 and 3 pm and find vacant stalls and vendors packing up. I think they are confused and frustrated. Perhaps the flexibility could be for vendors who are sold out could leave in the last hour. But it still looks bad. I would rather have the market be chaotic because vendors are leaving early than to change the hours.	Aug 1, 2013 9:32 PM
38	If the vendors don't like the hours, I recommend that they attend a different market	Aug 1, 2013 3:28 PM
39	It has always bothered me when vendors leave early and suddenly the market goes from looking like a busy bustling INTERESTING place to visit, to a venue starting to wrap up and potential customers start to think "all the best stuff is probably gone". I think it has increased business. The Market stays more full of customers even just before closing.	Aug 1, 2013 3:10 PM
40	Realistically I think 2:00 is a better close time.	Aug 1, 2013 3:02 PM
41	Many other markets also require the vendors to stay for the whole day.	Aug 1, 2013 2:02 PM
42	I think it's a good idea to encourage vendors to stay the full market. It's beneficial to customers and also since this has been more enforced lately I've actually discovered that I can have a lot of sales in the later afternoon!	Aug 1, 2013 12:57 PM
43	If there are those who want to or need to leave early say after 2 pm then allow it with no penalty. There are enough who do stay until 3 always.	Aug 1, 2013 12:41 PM



**Q4. The current operating rules further state: "Leaving early from Market without providing the Market Manager with a reasonable explanation may result in loss of attendance for that day. Reasonable explanations for leaving early include, but are not limited to selling out of food or products, extrem..."**

1	Should double the amount of times you have to attend market for the year.	Aug 15, 2013 7:39 AM
2	these hours have worked for many years, why change for a couple people. there is not alot of people after 1:00 but more then enough to make it worth my while.	Aug 13, 2013 6:20 PM
3	See previous statement.	Aug 13, 2013 9:42 AM
4	It should be the farmers decision when to leave the market, not the market manager as the farmer is the business owner.	Aug 13, 2013 9:38 AM
5	If vendor vacates their stall, it allows other vendors not on market isle ways to move in. It benefits these new vendors.	Aug 13, 2013 9:36 AM
6	We appreciate the clause of "reasonable explanation..."	Aug 13, 2013 9:34 AM
7	I don't know when this rule was written but I hope we can change it. I believe the vendor should notify the market manager but they should not lose attendance for the day and it should not be used against them if they don't. In other words, we are professional growers/artisans. We provide a service to the community as well as gain the opportunity to sell from the market. We should be treated as adults and not penalized if we feel we need to leave early. If an individual vendor abuses this rule by leaving consistently -way early or arriving way late - without a good reason, then the individual(s) should be talked to. Not make all vendors pay for some who abuse the rules.	Aug 13, 2013 8:37 AM
8	see comment above	Aug 12, 2013 10:07 AM
9	Again, it is a very long day, even tho I have done it for years. It is very hard on the producers and bedding plant people. It is different for jewelry and craft people who load their vehicles and can leave their items from market day to the next day. Perishable items have to be loaded and unloaded every day. Watered, cleaned, fertilized, and repacked for the next time, and then reloaded on the truck. These are long days and many nights for most of us. As a sole proprietor I need to get home in the heat of the day and take care of the greenhouses during the spring season. I do not have employees to do this work for me.	Aug 11, 2013 7:02 PM
10	the Market Manager is a reasonable person I think	Aug 10, 2013 5:44 AM
11	I think there could be a better way to address this issue. Perhaps have those vendors, who do not have enough product to stay till 3pm. let the Market Manager know first thing in the morning. We all realize that there are certain times of the year that our products are not plentiful, and when that occurs for me, I choose not to attend market those days.	Aug 9, 2013 3:22 PM
12	We should not have to ask for permission. It is very annoying to be spoken to with a condensending way.	Aug 8, 2013 7:00 PM
13	This sounds fine. This prevents people from just showing up then quickly leaving.	Aug 8, 2013 1:29 PM
14	I suffer from many allergies and getting ill at market is a real possibility.	Aug 8, 2013 11:47 AM

**Q4. The current operating rules further state: "Leaving early from Market without providing the Market Manager with a reasonable explanation may result in loss of attendance for that day. Reasonable explanations for leaving early include, but are not limited to selling out of food or products, extrem..."**

15	I believe we would have a stronger afternoon market if everyone would be encouraged to stay until 3:00. Unless as stated above being sold out etc. I strongly encourage vendors needing to check with the market manager before leaving early.	Aug 8, 2013 11:43 AM
16	Vendors that have other jobs or commitments should seek a part-time market.	Aug 8, 2013 11:40 AM
17	Managers have always been understanding about these various issues.	Aug 7, 2013 5:55 PM
18	Of course there are always extenuating circumstance and it is common sense that we should have a simple way to meditate these special needs when they arise.	Aug 7, 2013 9:32 AM
19	If and I use the word IF strongly, the manager is fair and reasonable about this, it's a good rule. There MUST be a specific procedure by which to appeal the decision of the manager and it should be clearly stated in the rule.	Aug 7, 2013 2:45 AM
20	above	Aug 6, 2013 5:52 AM
21	I feel there needs to be some rules on Market hours. But I also feel that if you leave a hour or so earlier you should not be pentalized for the whole day. Some of the vendors have already been up and going for 12 to 14 hours by closing time of 3:00 p.m. and they still have to get home again. Most markets are not open for 8 hours.	Aug 5, 2013 7:48 PM
22	As long as the market was only mandatory till 2 I would have no problem	Aug 5, 2013 7:29 PM
23	No market manager is hired to be a nanny. Independent farmers and business operators who manage complex businesses and endure hardship to serve the customer should not have to ask 'Mother-may-I?' for every move they make. This is more true than ever now that we have an unusually controlling market manager, who has managed, by her policies and actions toward certain vendors at the lower end of the seniority scale, to alienate not only those she has targeted, but those who have had to stand and watch it. Market morale this last year has never been lower with so many threats coming from the managerial staff. What will the result of such a punitive attitude come to? Legal action?	Aug 5, 2013 7:30 AM
24	I think it is perfectly reasonable.	Aug 4, 2013 4:23 PM
25	see above comment	Aug 4, 2013 8:13 AM
26	See above	Aug 3, 2013 4:27 AM
27	We are only required to attend 15 times a year. So beyond that, a vendor can leave early without any consequences. 15 times is not too much to ask. And even in these 15 times, a vendor can leave early if they've sold out, if the weather is bad, or even if they have something else to do.	Aug 2, 2013 4:20 PM
28	As a vendor who has always attended the entire market (7am-3pm) for multiple years, we have seen a 6.7% increase in sales since the Market Managers have been strictly enforcing this rule. This directly relates to and proves our previous comment about market attendance for the entire day benefiting all vendors and	Aug 2, 2013 9:23 AM

**Q4. The current operating rules further state: "Leaving early from Market without providing the Market Manager with a reasonable explanation may result in loss of attendance for that day. Reasonable explanations for leaving early include, but are not limited to selling out of food or products, extrem...**

customers. Furthermore, many vendors who have frequently left early in the past have been in locations of prime market real estate: that is, the stalls they occupy have some of the highest traffic flows at the market, and therefore are most desirable to any vendor who can secure such a location. It is inconsiderate of vendors knowing they will leave early to occupy such spaces, when other vendors otherwise sent to the market fringes could put such stalls to their full potential use. Due to the large net effect of leaving the market early, losing attendance for the day is a reasonable and appropriate consequence of chosen actions. Reasonable explanations are therefore good, although they do not necessarily address the considerations set out immediately above.

29	I started my own business to be my own boss. I find it demeaning to have to ask to leave. I am going to stay as long as I am making money. The market has changed over the last 10 years. We have way more vendors who sell non-perishable food items (frozen meat, pastas, dressings, etc) and you are going to chase out the perishable products people. I sell flowers and herbs, perhaps the most fragile of all and I sell out fast.	Aug 2, 2013 4:03 AM
30	I agree with this rule but it should end at "loss of attendance for that day".	Aug 2, 2013 3:37 AM
31	A scheduling conflict could only be a funeral. or some other rare event. I think that vendors who want to leave early should be asked to choose spaces on the perimeter of the market so that when they leave, the appearance of the market is not affected, and big gaps are not left between vendors.	Aug 1, 2013 9:32 PM
32	I feel as though vendors should be able to leave when they deem reasonable.	Aug 1, 2013 8:11 PM
33	How can this be enforced? Although I agree with the intent and it seems that vendors have been staying later it puts the market master in a difficult position. If someone says that they "sold out" it may mean that they are using it as an excuse to leave early. It could also be reasonably argued that if you sell out you need to bring more product. I think that people who "sell out" regularly should not be on the main aisle. If they cannot bring enough product with them than they should leave the good locations to others who intend to stay. I do believe that there are fewer vendors leaving and this is good.	Aug 1, 2013 3:02 PM
34	Note that vendors are only required to have 15 attendance days, so losing attendance on a few days will not matter for most vendors.	Aug 1, 2013 2:02 PM
35	I think encouraging vendors to stay to the end is good, but I think there should be more flexibility around leaving early as necessary. This is actually probably ok as written, but one has a feeling of "asking permission" with checking in with the manager. Perhaps this rule should be strictly enforced for departures prior to 2 pm (1.30?) and after that the understanding is that if you need to leave, you need to leave--you would stay if you could.	Aug 1, 2013 12:57 PM



**Q5. The current operating rules give the following market hours:**

**The Market shall be open:**

**January 1 – April 30**

**Dates: Saturdays (except for New Year's Day)**

**Hours: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**May 1 – December 31**

**Dates: Wednesdays and Saturdays (except for Christmas Day)**

**Hours: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

1	We have asked about 100 customers regarding the change in hours and they are totally opposed. Some can barely make it here by 3:00 and several said thank you for being here at 3:00.	Aug 15, 2013 7:39 AM
2	Hours are fine however we like to start packing up at 2pm due to other commitments.	Aug 13, 2013 9:38 AM
3	With the above exceptions - being treated as a professional and allowing vendors to make their own decisions with the courtesy of informing the market manager if the vendor feels they must leave early. If customers are commenting on the spotty attendance it needs to be communicated that this is a farmer's market with seasonal produce and plants produced by the vendor themselves. Many times a vendor has no one at home to water or pick or transport perishable products. It is a fluid, organic,(as in evolving) market and not a Wal Mart, Sears or K-Mart.	Aug 13, 2013 8:37 AM
4	Since the traffic at the market dies down after 1:00pm on most of Saturdays, the market should be closed at 1:00pm.	Aug 12, 2013 12:02 AM
5	I would like the May1-December31 shortened to 2 pm. Many days those last hours after 1pm are very hot on the asphalt and few sales are made. It takes a toll on the plants to have to sit in the heat. For many of us, by the time we load our trucks it is 3:30 before we get out of the market and then 4-4:30 before we get home. We have worked a 12 hour day, having been up since 4 am to get to the market before 6am to check in. Now we have to unload and re-water plants and by this time it is 6-7pm. That is a 15 hour day.	Aug 11, 2013 7:02 PM
6	I would not be opposed to the market opening an hour or so later simply because I always feel bad when I hear that some of the farmers have to get up at three or four in the morning to arrive on time. If those farmers are not opposed to our current hours however, I support keeping the hours as they are.	Aug 11, 2013 11:36 AM
7	I would like to see these hours changed to the Jan-Apr. hours and start at 8am instead of 7am	Aug 9, 2013 6:13 AM
8	Just like the Market to open at 8 a.m. all year. Thank you.	Aug 8, 2013 4:43 PM
9	Till 2pm would be ideal. Traffic has not been sufficient between 2-3pm to justify the labor expense.	Aug 8, 2013 1:27 PM
10	8:00 to 3:00 all year	Aug 8, 2013 12:37 PM
11	But would like to see 8am-3pm year round.	Aug 8, 2013 11:47 AM
12	I believe you stay until 3:00. I always have 3 o'clock customers. Get up in the	Aug 8, 2013 11:45 AM

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**Hours: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

morning and be on time.

13	No comment.	Aug 8, 2013 11:43 AM
14	The customers want the hours to stay the same, so many come late and are glad the market is still open at 1:30 and 2:30pm	Aug 8, 2013 11:40 AM
15	Leave them alone	Aug 7, 2013 5:55 PM
16	I agree that these are the current hours that the market acknowledges however we would suggest changing the closing time to 2pm for Jan 1 - April 30 and change the opening time in December for both Wed. and Sat. to 8am. and change closing time for Nov- Dec to 2pm.	Aug 7, 2013 9:32 AM
17	Maybe hours could be from 8:00-3:00 november 1-may 1 When the market is slower....or even 8:00 - 2:00	Aug 6, 2013 10:44 AM
18	Fine for the market hours. There will be vendors there who want to be there for the entire time.	Aug 6, 2013 5:52 AM
19	If you are going to have a penalty then at least change the closing time a hour earlier, most of the buying customers come before 1:30 anyway because they want to get there choice of product.	Aug 5, 2013 7:48 PM
20	I think the market should switch to winter hours at least a month earlier! (Dec. 1st)	Aug 5, 2013 7:29 PM
21	Knock an hour of the end of the market to 2pm. Seems like after 1:30 things slow way down.	Aug 5, 2013 8:08 AM
22	Customers do not shop much in the dark. The market should open for business at seven a.m. May through September, opening eight a.m. all other months.	Aug 5, 2013 7:30 AM
23	A few years ago people began leaving early and the marketmaster was letting them get away with it so now some of them think it is their God-given right to do so without consequence. I think if you don't want to stay late there are other markets to accomodate your needs.	Aug 4, 2013 4:23 PM
24	I would like to see 3 p.m. changed to 2 p.m.	Aug 3, 2013 5:34 AM
25	The market needs to begin their summer hours starting April 1st.	Aug 2, 2013 5:51 PM
26	A large percentage of my business occurs between 1 and 3. There is an 'after lunch' crowd. Our market is different from other farmer's markets in that we are a big tourist destination. A short market makes sense when it only serves a	Aug 2, 2013 4:20 PM



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**Hours: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

small local community's grocery needs. People come from far away and make a day of our market, and linger for hours. I have plenty of business in every hour the market is open. It's only open 16 hours a week, and I can't afford to lose any of those hours.

27	3 pm is WAY TOO LATE. I would like to see the market close at 1 pm. I have been a shopper at the AAFM for 20 years, and a vendor now for more than 5 years, and I've seen very little commerce take place after 1 pm. These long hours of being open mean that the vendors & their employees must work a very long day, much longer than a "typical" shift at any other sort of retail selling environment. These long hours also pose challenges on very hot days & very cold days - e.g produce quality suffers, losses increase, prepared foods cannot be kept cold/warm.	Aug 2, 2013 10:48 AM
28	Due to customer demand (i.e., customers trying to shop from us well before our, and other vendors stalls are set up, or the market is even open), we feel that the Farmer's Market should be open at 7am starting in April, rather than May. The ending time of 3pm, we feel is appropriate year round. We would also like to point out that the listed hours of the market as set out in this question differ from the practice in place in actuality. Why is the Wednesday following Christmas not an open Market day? We have been told that there is no Market on that day, when it is officially listed as an open date according to the operating rules. Vendors choosing to attend or not on that particular Wednesday should be given the choice.	Aug 2, 2013 9:23 AM
29	I think the market hours should change to 8am-3pm from October through April 30th. It is pretty much after the harvest in the Fall and before planting time in the Spring. Many people don't shop as early when the weather is cold and they wait until after it is warmed up to come to market. While eager to sell our goods it makes for a very cold morning when you are there from 6am 'til the sun comes up and warms the day.	Aug 2, 2013 6:34 AM
30	The market should close at 1:30 in the summer and 1 :00 in the winter	Aug 2, 2013 5:38 AM
31	Too long of hours...the state average is 5.5.	Aug 2, 2013 4:03 AM
32	It's been said in the past that the vendors are the back bone of the market. I think the CUSTOMERS are. I have been on the market over 3 decades and can't tell you how many times i've had customers complain about vendors leaving early. I also think the rule of vendors only needing 15 days of attendance should be increased to 20 or 25 FULL days of attendance to maintain their seniority.	Aug 2, 2013 3:37 AM
33	the 8 hour day (7 in the winter) serves the customers.and gives them lots of options when to shop. Some customers like to come in the afternoon when	Aug 1, 2013 9:32 PM

**Q5. The current operating rules give the following market hours:**

**The Market shall be open:**

**January 1 – April 30**

**Dates: Saturdays (except for New Year's Day)**

**Hours: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**May 1 – December 31**

**Dates: Wednesdays and Saturdays (except for Christmas Day)**

**Hours: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

parking is easier. The hours have been as they are for decades. It ain't broke - don't "fix" it. I think we could do things from 1 to 3 to make the market more interesting during that time! The market got new signs about 2 yers ago. They look very expcensive. If the hours are changed, the signs, brochures and internet links would have to be changed. As far as enforcing the rules, I hope you can resolve the issue of vendors leaving early without changing the hours.

34	I think the market could run until 2:00, at least in winter.	Aug 1, 2013 8:11 PM
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35	As I said I think 2:00 is reasonable.	Aug 1, 2013 3:02 PM
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**Q6. Please provide any other feedback you have as it relates to the market hours and the rule requiring vendors to attend the market during all market hours.**

1	The vendors doing the complaining about the hours don't attend WED market. The other markets we attend you must supply enough for the whole day and not allowed to leave early.	Aug 15, 2013 7:39 AM
2	Many people complain about the parking of trucks being a safety issue, I think moving trucks and cars during the operating hours is a bigger issue for safety.	Aug 13, 2013 6:20 PM
3	Many times the largest sale of the day is after 2:00. People like to come to market after work. They can't get here any earlier.	Aug 13, 2013 9:43 AM
4	I often do most of my business after 12:30 or one. For example on Wednesday Aug 8 more that 60% of my sales were after 12:30. Closing earlier than 3 would have a large impact on my income. This Wednesday was a pretty good example of how my sales go.	Aug 13, 2013 9:42 AM
5	Again, the farmer is the business owner not the market manager. If it's not financially feasible for the farmer to stay, it should be the farmers leave without an explanation.	Aug 13, 2013 9:38 AM
6	The only market we know of with this many hours. The last 1-2 hours up to 3pm are usually quite slow. Would cutting an hour or so off be an option? Only a suggestion. But then there are those few customers that may not be able to come till then.	Aug 13, 2013 9:34 AM
7	Please be flexible - if everything is enforced to the letter, vendors will be angry, morale low and good vendors will leave. We need to work together. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.	Aug 13, 2013 8:37 AM
8	This is especially difficult when we are a smaller/newer vendor, and we are set way back off to the side so that craft tables and larger producers can set up with seven tables in the prime locations.	Aug 12, 2013 8:28 AM
9	I think it is important for our market to live up to its advertising. Customers who come within the posted hours of operation, should have a chance to see a full market as they undoubtedly expect.	Aug 11, 2013 11:36 AM
10	its a great market lets keep it this way!	Aug 9, 2013 5:35 PM
11	We have to think of the loyal customers that have been coming to the market for years. They like these hours and would me very dissatisfied. A good example is Northville Market. 2 yrs ago they tried to close the market 1 hour early and received so much dissatisfaction that the Northville Chamber decided to change it back to 3pm. When vendors sign up for this market, they were well aware of the times the market would be open. This change would be harmful , this market was written to be one of the most popular markets in the Nation. Lets not go backward.	Aug 9, 2013 3:22 PM
12	Market hours are too long already. Longer than 95% of any other markets in the US. Vendors staying after 4 hrs should be at vendor discretion.	Aug 8, 2013 6:41 PM
13	You cant judge how well things will sell and how long it will take to sell them. The hours are fine the way they are.	Aug 8, 2013 1:47 PM

**Q6. Please provide any other feedback you have as it relates to the market hours and the rule requiring vendors to attend the market during all market hours.**

14	I feel that it is counterproductive when small producers come to market, have a successful day and sell out of product, then need to waste time at the stall instead of going back to the fields and doing the work that needs doing.	Aug 8, 2013 1:29 PM
15	Signing in at 6:00 is too early	Aug 8, 2013 12:37 PM
16	Good policy. Keep it.	Aug 8, 2013 11:45 AM
17	Keep hours as is. Thanks for enforcing the staying till 3:00 rule.	Aug 8, 2013 11:43 AM
18	The Market hours are great, just because a few vendors won't commit to 15 times. They should not try to change the whole place for their benefit.	Aug 8, 2013 11:40 AM
19	Vendors should be required to attend 20-25 market days. We currently offer 80+ days to sell at. Our market needs committed vendors to the health and growth of the market.	Aug 7, 2013 5:55 PM
20	It is important to be there for sales & for customers	Aug 6, 2013 10:44 AM
21	I can understand the customers view on vendors leaving but on the other hand they should be considerate of the vendors long days also. If a vendor leaves it is his loss of sales for the day He has already paid his fee for the day. There should be some penalty if you are not there for at least 3/4 of the time without a good reason. I also feel there should rules for anual vendors and number of stalls they are allowed to have in peak season they should (not more than 3) so others cabn have good spots.	Aug 5, 2013 7:48 PM
22	I think the yearly market fee should go up. One reason would be to encourage vendors with seniority to use stall space more judiciously. There are other reasons	Aug 5, 2013 7:29 PM
23	I would like to see the rule modified to allowing the vendor to decide if he wants to leave after 2:00pm on "early Michigan Home Football Games", especially if the customer base is light. Leaving at 3:00pm is usually when the early games are over and driving home can take an extra hour or two with all the traffic. Of course this should be with the approval of the Market Manager.	Aug 5, 2013 6:55 PM
24	I have lots of customers after 2pm. The market has had these hours for years, why should they change.	Aug 5, 2013 5:08 AM
25	Inform customers that the best selections are earlier in the day and that some of the vendors leave, because they are sold out or have too little inventory.	Aug 5, 2013 3:41 AM
26	IMHO, many vendors want to stay open until 3:00 to be available for all their customers, and some of them have large displays and no help, and it's a hardship for them to have to clear their stalls before the night market or another event. I feel strongly that the City should schedule the weddings, night market and other events either after 5:00 or on non-market days if they want everybody to stay until 3:00.	Aug 4, 2013 4:23 PM
27	I really enjoy working with the new market management and support them entirely.	Aug 4, 2013 8:38 AM

**Q6. Please provide any other feedback you have as it relates to the market hours and the rule requiring vendors to attend the market during all market hours.**

28	Please change the hours, then requiring vendors to attend the entire time won't be a problem any longer!	Aug 2, 2013 10:48 AM
29	Most businesses have standard hours of operation. They are either open, or closed. Why should the Farmer's Market be any different? We, as vendors, either should be at the Farmer's Market as a part of our business, or we should not. There cannot really be any in between: being sort of open and sort of closed at the same time. We've agreed to attend the market; it is our responsibility both for ourselves, and all other vendors, to attend the entirety of the market so as to meet customer expectations.	Aug 2, 2013 9:23 AM
30	I think the posted hours are when vendors should be in attendance. It's difficult to sell when the booths beside you are empty and people with strollers, or friends gather in the empty spaces and obscure your booth.	Aug 2, 2013 6:34 AM
31	We are not children, we know when to leave. This has worked well for 20 years. Saturday market is stressful enough and now Sarah adds a new element of stress. I wish you all could come work on a Friday with me and see how hard Saturday market becomes. I have talked to several vendors who have admitted to bringing less so that they did not have to stay till 3:00. Really? Is this what you want? I would think you would want us to fill our stalls to the brim! I think Sarah has opened up a can of worms. I also think if she surveys other markets she will find that there is no policy to PUNISH vendors who leave early.	Aug 2, 2013 4:03 AM
32	I believe that the rule should say each vendor is required to stay til 3pm at least 15 times to keep their seniority. If any given vendor chooses to leave early without selling out then that day doesn't count towards their seniority status, All vendors should have the common courtesy to tell market staff that they are leaving early if they choose to do so.	Aug 2, 2013 3:37 AM
33	We just filled out new applications. If I remember correctly, we signed something that said we agree abide by the rules. The people who want to close and leave early signed that they would abide by the rules, and then almost immediately started to protest the enforcement of the rules. Doesn't that mean they signed the application under false pretences? There are markets in the area that close at 1 pm (shorter hours). If a vendor has a hard time physically doing a 12 hour day, they should apply to a market with an easier schedule. Personally I am a wreck when I get home, but the hours work for the customers. And whether I am there for 7 hours or 8 hours, it s not a big difference. The hard work of unloading and loading has to be done whetner the market is 8 hours long or 5 hours long.	Aug 1, 2013 9:32 PM
34	No need for change	Aug 1, 2013 3:28 PM
35	I think they are fine.	Aug 1, 2013 2:02 PM
36	I think that even with all the good will in the world it can be hard for a vendor to stick it out til 3 pm--a lot of us have to conserve enough energy to singlehandedly load all of our gear and unload it again when we get home. I think a certain amount of flexibility with this would be beneficial. That said, I think we all benefit from having the market run until mid-afternoon--it's best for customers that way, for sure. I've suggested one alternative plan above, and another thought would be to make there be some *reward* for staying til 3? Like	Aug 1, 2013 12:57 PM

**Q6. Please provide any other feedback you have as it relates to the market hours and the rule requiring vendors to attend the market during all market hours.**

a chance to gain extra seniority points or some kind of discount or similar? I'm happy to help brainstorm or flesh out any of these ideas with you.

37	The rules and hours seem fair to me.	Aug 1, 2013 12:43 PM
38	Those who wish to leave early such as 2pm should be allowed to without any penalty. There are enough vendors who always stay until 3pm .	Aug 1, 2013 12:41 PM