

FARMERS MARKETS – May through November

General instructions

Volunteers pick up produce at the end of the day at local farmers' markets. Smaller markets can be picked up in personal vehicles. For the bigger markets, volunteers drive the AFAC vans to the market. Volunteers should wear their AFAC t-shirt, arrive about 15 minutes before the market closes, ask vendors if they have anything to donate today, and distribute crates for donations. Focus on fruits and veggies! After collecting donations, volunteers drive the food back to AFAC, weigh them in, and place them in the cooler for storage.

Requirements: valid driver's license (AFAC will keep a copy on file). Must be able to lift 20-30lbs and ok being outside in any weather. If picking up in a personal vehicle, it needs to be medium/large size.

Van details: The vans that are typically available will be the AFAC 4 (white) or AFAC 7 (black). The keys and the sign out log are on clipboards between the volunteer entrance and the dock door. You can put your car in the space of the van while you are out. Be sure to know where all the important parts of the van are before you drive it. Check the fuel and make sure you are wearing your seat belt. Drive safely and be a good ambassador. Have your helper assist you in backing up the van or your car in the loading dock.

AFAC doors/lights: Know the code (2001#). The lights in the warehouse come on automatically. Return the keys to the vans upon completion. If you are here on Sunday, please bring a helper with you so you are not by yourself in the warehouse. The produce bagging supervisor should be here at 1:15. If you are here by yourself, be sure to lock yourself in the warehouse after you've unloaded and that the doors are shut/locked when you leave.

How to load/unload, how to weigh, how to record: Load crates in your van, no more than 3 high. Make sure all doors are shut and locked properly. If you need to back up, have your helper assist you from the outside. At AFAC, volunteers may not use the lift gate on the loading dock. Know how to open and shut the dock door. Put all food on the scale. Subtract 2 pounds per crate/bin. On the donation slip, write down the date, the weight, the market and, a brief description: lettuce, tomatoes, peaches, etc. Both the yellow and white copies stay in the book.

How to store the food: Put the food in crates (ideally) and then the crates on a "wheelie" by the scale and then put that in cooler #3. Crates with food on them do not touch the floor. They have to be on a wheelie, a metal cart or on an empty crate. If space in the cooler is tight, you CAN leave non-refrigerated produce out (tomatoes, potatoes, onions, are good examples). Again, the food does not touch the floor.

Helpers: For the larger markets, we can arrange for a helper to meet you at the market. Please let us know if you are routinely in need of help. The best scenario though is for you to bring your own helper, especially on a Sunday. Because of COVID, the only people who can ride with you in the van are people who are fully vaccinated plus two weeks (and you are also fully vaccinated plus two weeks, unless they live with you). For the Saturday markets, staff can assist you with the gathering of supplies and the unloading.

Courthouse FM - Saturdays

Arrive at AFAC at 11:20 to load 20 milk crates, red bins, and the hand cart which unfolds for easy transport of the food at the market. Staff will assist you in loading the AFAC van. Take some plastic bags to transfer greens or beans. If you choose to take your car, bring some boxes, reusable tote bags, etc.

Location: Courthouse parking lot (1400 N Courthouse Rd). You will park on 14th St at the corner of the market (a hill). 14th St is closed to traffic from N. Courthouse Rd so you'll need to loop around from Wilson & N Adams or from 13th St to N Veitch.

Market closing time: 12:00 noon when the market manager rings the bell. Plan to be at the market by 11:45am

Cherrydale FM – Saturdays

Load 10-20 milk crates into your vehicle (must have a medium/large vehicle). You can pick up crates from AFAC in advance.

Location: Dorothy Hamm Middle School (4100 Vacation Ln). Park curbside along Lorcom Lane or Military Road and walk down Vacation Lane to the market. Parking is also available in the school parking lot across Vacation Lane on the north side of the middle school. Market Parking is not allowed on Vacation Ln.

Market closing time: 12:00 noon. Plan to be at the market by 11:45am

Lubber Run FM – Saturdays

Load 10-20 milk crates into your vehicle (must have a medium/large vehicle). You can pick up crates from AFAC in advance.

Location: the corner of N. George Mason Drive and N. Henderson Road in Arlington, Virginia. Street address is 4401 N. Henderson Road, the Barrett Elementary School.

Market closing time: 12:00 noon. Plan to be at the market by 11:45am.

Westover FM – Sundays

Arrive at AFAC at 11:20pm. Load AFAC van with 20 milk crates, a few red bins, and the hand cart which unfolds for easy transport of the milk crates while at the market. Take some plastic bags to transfer greens or beans. Remember to sign out/in the van. When you return from the market, be careful backing the van up (have one person guide you in).

Location: N. McKinley Street in front of the Westover Library. You can park in the parking lot behind the post office or in the library parking lot.

Market closing time: 12:00 noon. Plan to be at the market in the AFAC van between 11:30-11:45.