Frequently Asked Questions

The UC Davis Farmers Market is organized by UC Davis Dining Services, operated by Sodexo at UC Davis, in collaboration with multiple campus departments and community sponsors. It is designed to promote student health as well as local and campus-produced food products. It is a seasonal on-campus extension of the Davis Farmers Market. It runs each Wednesday of fall and spring quarters from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm, weather permitting.

What is the history of the UC Davis Farmers Market?
The UC Davis Farmers Market developed from collaboration between a number of campus partners in an effort to increase access to fresh, local produce for busy UC Davis students, staff and faculty during fall and spring quarters. A 2011 survey of UC Davis students found that over 60% eat two or fewer servings of fruits and vegetables a day.

The UC Davis Farmers Market offers an easy and convenient way for the UCD community to incorporate more nutrition-packed fruits and vegetables into their diet. The campus is operated under the umbrella of multiple sponsoring departments including Student Health & Counseling Services' Health Education & Promotion, ASUCD Environmental Policy and Planning Commission, UC Davis Stores, Campus Recreation and Unions, Davis Farmers Market Association, Davis Food Co-op, Coffee House, Student Housing, the UC Davis Fire Department and UC Davis Dining Services to make this a possibility.

How many days out of the year does your Farmers Market operate?
The UC Davis Farmers Market operates on Wednesdays during the fall and spring quarters at the UC Davis campus. During fall, we only operate during the weeks prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, which is 7 days total during the fall quarter. During the spring, the UC Davis Farmers Market operates all 10 weeks of the quarter.

What hours do you operate your Farmers Market?
The UC Davis Farmers Market operates from 11am-1:30pm. This is the time we see the most traffic to the Silo Patio where the Farmers Market is hosted as it is a lunch-time destination.

What happens if the weather is poor?
The UC Davis Farmers Market is rain or shine, however many of our resources (not growers) that provide activities like music, entertainment, cooking demos, etc. decide to cancel their programs for the Farmers Market if there is heavy rain.

How many vendors participate in your farmer market?
We have an average of eight vendors during the fall and spring markets. We also have four food vendors that have food booths or food trucks in operation at the Silo Patio during market days including the Gunrock Pub market booth, Star Ginger food truck, Shah’s Halal food truck, and the Coffee House market booth.

Do the vendors at the UC Davis Farmers Market change from fall to spring?
Our food vendors are consistent participants in the market. Our growers may change between the seasons based on what their primary crops are. For example, our kiwi grower only comes out for spring when kiwis are in season.

Find out more online at http://farmersmarket.ucdavis.edu/
Are the food vendors separate from the Farmers Market or a part of it?
Two of the food vendors operate on the Silo Patio throughout the week, including on days of the market. The Gunrock Pub and Coffee House booths are only in operation on Wednesdays for the market. These are technically 'separate' from the Farmers Market area in order to meet Farmers Market code and regulation, although they operate in conjunction with market programming.

Are your food vendors covered by the Farmers Market liability insurance or do they carry their own insurance?
All of our food vendors carry their own insurance.

Do you have other campus groups set up booths at the event?
Yes - KDVS (music), Health Education and Promotion, Campus Center for the Environment, the UC Davis Fire Department, Student Nutrition Association, Student Cooking Demo interns participate in the UC Davis Farmers Market. They provide hands-on activities that enrich our farmers market atmosphere. Student organizations that are not sponsors of the market are also able to table in the establish student organization tables on the Silo Patio, which can be reserved in advance through the UC Davis Center for Student Involvement.

Where do your vendors mark their trucks/vehicles during the market?
Vendors park ON the Silo Patio next to their stalls/tables during the market. This has eliminated the need to pay for parking stalls for them on campus, and also makes it easier for them to set up their market tables. This has been approved by our campus safety services.

Is your Farmers Market open to the off-campus public?
Yes, although most visitors are from on-campus and are students, staff and faculty. Any community members that may attend the market are welcome to park on campus and pay a daily or hourly parking fee, although we are a very bike-friendly campus and encourage all participants of the market to walk, bike or bus to campus if they are visiting from off-campus.

How well attended is the UC Davis Farmers Market?
The event is pretty well attended during the lunch hour, as many students visit the Silo for lunch. Sales have increased, however we would like to see more sales at all of our food vendors and growers’ stalls.

What forms of payment can the public use at the Farmers Market?
Most growers accept only cash or Davis Farmers Market/UC Davis Farmers Market vouchers. However, there are multiple options for cash-free transactions, even with our growers!

- **EBT** is available at the Farmers Market manager's table.

- **Debit and Credit Card Transactions** - Market Dollars can be bought dollar-for-dollar at the Market Information table with debit/credit cards at no additional charge. ATM machines are located at the south east entrance to the Silo. Food Vendors accepting debit/credit cards include Star Ginger, Shah's Halal and the Gunrock Pub booth.

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- **Aggie Cash** is accepted at the UC Davis Farmers Market. Aggie Cash can be exchanged for Market Dollars at the Market Information table for use at grower tables. Aggie Cash is also accepted at the Star Ginger food truck.

**What issues did you need to work through to have a Farmers Market at UC Davis?**

In order to be successful in developing a Farmers Market for your campus, we highly encourage you to understand what policies and procedures are required for hosting events on your campus, because technically the Farmers Market is an event. Other key things to keep in mind include:

- **Budget** – who is going to pay for the main operating expenses of your farmers market?
- **Management** – who is going to manage the weekly operations of your market, including
- **Safety** – different campuses have different policies for safety requirements. Keep in mind you will need to likely have your health and safety inspector and fire marshall involved in the planning.
- **Growers** – who are your growers going to be? It has been easier for us to partner with our downtown Davis Farmers Market manager to maintain a consistent representation of local growers at our UC Davis Farmers Market.
- **Certified Farmers Market** – is your market going to be a certified Farmers Market? This ensures that all of the produce being sold at your market is grown in the state you are operating your market. Learn more about becoming a certified California Farmers Market here: [http://www.cafarmersmarkets.com/](http://www.cafarmersmarkets.com/).

Don't see answer to your question about the UC Davis Farmers Market?
Feel free to contact us! ucdavis.sustainabledining@gmail.com, 530-754-7128.