

## **Market on the Mesa's Frequently Asked Questions**

August 1, 2016

### ***Why doesn't the market have more produce vendors?***

We already have four farmers selling a great variety of seasonal fruits, vegetables, herbs, eggs, and raw honey! As we are a new market in a relatively smaller community, our market needs to start small, and first demonstrate enough demand for these existing vendors. As the customer base grows, we hope to attract more produce vendors over time. The good news is *you* have the power to make our market grow. Just become a regular shopper and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

### ***Do vendors accept credit or debit cards? What about EBT?***

Yes, many of the produce and other vendors take cards, and some produce vendors also accept EBT. You can also buy tokens from the market manager with a credit/debit card and use them like cash with any vendor.

### ***It's hard for me to get to the market in time after work. Will the hours ever be extended or changed to a weekend?***

Due to contractual agreements, we are committed to the current date and time. We understand that it does not fit everyone's schedule, and are sorry for this inconvenience. If you cannot make it to the market, we suggest subscribing to Sage Mountain Farm's CSA (community-supported agriculture) program and have a friend or neighbor pick up your box at the market. Each week, the box, which comes in large or small, provides a seasonal mix of the finest local produce. The large feeds a family of 4-5 and the small feeds about 2-3.

Details about the program here: <http://sagemtfarm.csaware.com/store/>

### ***Why do the prices seem high?***

This is really a matter of perception and what we value the most. If organic produce is important to you, you would be pleased to learn that prices for organic produce at farmers markets are lower or equal to those at supermarkets. And with conventionally grown produce, grocery stores may have lower prices on some common items, but when it comes to things like butternut squash, sweet potatoes, red apples, beets, and chard, farmers market prices were the same or cheaper (Source: <http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=15299>).

If you also care about the flavor and nutrition of vine-ripe freshness, environmentally responsible farming practices, paying farm workers a living wage, supporting local farmers and enjoying a fun, community-building experience, then farmers markets provide value that goes way beyond the dollar.

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Curious to learn more? Explore these informative articles:

Myths and truths about farmers markets

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/forrest-pritchard/first-time-shopping-at-farmers-market\\_b\\_5519524.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/forrest-pritchard/first-time-shopping-at-farmers-market_b_5519524.html)

Farmers markets aren't just for the rich

<http://modernfarmer.com/2016/02/farmers-markets-flint-michigan-study/>