

March 20, 2020

For Immediate Release

RE: New Braunfels Farmers Market Remains Open

The New Braunfels Farmers Market understands and appreciates that there is widespread community concern about COVID-19 and social gatherings. While many markets have embraced the feel of an outdoor event we want to emphasize that at its core the purpose of a farmers' market is to be a critical component in maintaining and rebuilding local food economies by providing people increased access to fresh food.

At this time New Braunfels Farmers Market has removed all non-essential products, onsite concessions, ready-to-eat foods, arts and crafts and entertainment in order to comply with local and state regulations and to focus on items that are essential to community needs at this time. This reduces the amount of time people spend at markets and affords better social distancing. Vendors have been greatly reduced and spread out accordingly.

Farmers' markets are a product of a shortened supply chain, meaning the food passes through fewer hands than at other retail outlets. Our market takes place in the open air with space to move away from people if needed and the temporary nature of the booths allows for easy cleaning. There are a lot of empty shelves in the grocery stores right now and our market contributes to the community's food resilience.

The last thing we want is for food to be wasted in the field at a time that people need increased access to healthy food. There is increased demand for produce, eggs, bread, pasta, chicken and other proteins and the farmers and ranchers that make New Braunfels Farmers Market what it is work hard to bring those items to the community on a regular basis. This is not the time to decrease access to healthy, local foods or let our local food supply chain be damaged unnecessarily.

New Braunfels Farmers Market will continue to operate at 186 S Castell Ave every Saturday from 9AM – 1PM for the foreseeable future in the reduced and essential capacity outlined above. We ask that visitors to the farmers market follow CDC Guidance while there and take advantage of the additional handwashing and sanitizing stations as needed. Please minimize your time there or stay home if you are not feeling well or should not be out in public spaces such as grocery stores.