



January 2024

Policy for Uncertain Weather

While we do our best to make decisions on market closures the day prior, there are instances when the forecast is not definite. Rather than close a market when these circumstances arise, we have developed a policy that centers around our farms. When DTE cannot make a clear call to close markets by 2PM the day before a market we will operate as opt-in markets following this protocol:

- Our staff will reach out to farms to confirm plans to attend their market given the forecast.
- DTE will send an email to all vendors by 2PM to let them know that the market will run on an opt-in basis. It is the responsibility of the vendor to monitor emails and stay informed.
- All vendors, other than the farmers who have been contacted, will be opted-OUT by default.
- Vendors may decide to opt-in at any time up until the load-in cut off time for the market. They may simply show up and are not required to contact Down to Earth in advance. All vendors attending are expected to arrive at least 45 minutes prior to market opening as usual.
- Market layouts will be changed to accommodate the flexible attendance policy, so vendors should expect to be assigned a different spot than where they are usually placed. For example, vendors may be assigned a location based on when they arrive.
- Vendors in attendance will be billed at their regular rate for the day.
- Vendors not in attendance will not be billed or, when appropriate, will receive credit for the day, depending on their payment plan. Prepaid vendors will not be credited for the day.
- Markets may close early if weather conditions degrade to the degree that staying open presents a danger to staff and vendors.
- Markets may close entirely if it becomes clear by 5PM the day before that weather conditions during market hours will be dangerous.
- Shoppers will be informed via email, social media, and our website that the market will be running as a farm stand, with other vendors attending if possible.