

20 June 2017

To all SAGE Farmers Market Stall Holders

Rule Change

The committee has agreed to make a slight change to Rule 34 for meat producers. The new wording below will be adopted at the meeting in July, if no comments are received from any stall holders.

Old wording:

34. *All meat products must be reared on the producer's own land within the local region.*

New wording:

35. *All livestock must be reared on the producer's own land within the local region for a minimum of 12 months prior to slaughter.*

Reducing Single Use Plastic Bags

We are in the process of organising a sewing bee, in conjunction with Eurobodalla Shire Council's Environmental Education Officer Bernadette Davis, to make a huge bunch of cloth bags made from old sheer curtains. These are intended to reduce (even replace) the use of the smaller plastic bags, used for beans, tomatoes etc, not so much the larger bags with handles.

We intend to supply these bags FREE to stall holders to give away to customers. As the intention is to educate customers and encourage them to not use plastic, we would expect stall holders to ask customers to reuse the bags at every market. Many customers already bring their own larger shopping bags, but still ask for bags to hold product. We need to help them find a way to avoid all plastic.

Could you please let me know how many of these bags you think you could give away at your stall? That will give us a target number of bags to produce at our first sewing bee.

Speaking of reducing plastic, the Bag Bank is back in the black, but it was empty for some time. Please encourage your customers to use it, both when they need a bag, but particularly to bring in fabric bags that they might have lying around forgotten somewhere at home. Please also stress *fabric only, no plastic*. This includes the "green" fabric bags sold by supermarkets, not just cotton bags.

Rustic Pantry Wholefoods

We have launched a new cross-promotion partnership with Rustic Pantry Wholefoods. Customers can now order online from the market, then order online from Rustic Pantry and have both orders ready for collection here at the market on Tuesdays. Rustic Pantry has been one of our biggest supporters and we are happy to be able to show some support in return. Their business ethos is very compatible with the market's and they are able to fill the gap of products that we will never be able to fill, due to our strict rules, that is to say: dry goods. Please let your customers know about this collaboration and encourage more locals to support local business and ethical eating.

Road Signage

Keep your eyes out for our new permanent signs to be erected soon-ish!

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on behalf of the
SAGE Farmers Market Committee

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