I. The “Gateway Farmers Market” (hereafter referred to as the Market) will be open to growers who reside and grow produce within a seventy-five (75) mile radius of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas and agree to comply with the rules and regulations of the Market.

II. QUALIFICATIONS

1. Each grower shall complete an application form, provided by the market, annually. New applicants will be inspected prior to approval.

2. A. Applications must be submitted and approved, based on the rules and regulations of the Market, prior to bringing produce to the Market.

   B. Prior to being assigned a stall and prior to set up, a new grower will complete an application and pay a $25.00 NON-REFUNDABLE inspection fee. Will not be able to sell prior to farm inspection.

3. Each grower will agree to random inspections as deemed necessary by the Oversight Committee. Inspections will be made by a representative appointed by the Oversight Committee.

4. The Market is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health to accept Farmers Market WIC Vouchers. Only authorized growers are allowed to accept FMWIC Vouchers for certain fresh produce grown in the State of Arkansas and adjacent counties. Any vendor violating this rule will lose the privilege to accept vouchers and may be banned from the market.

III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. ABSOLUTELY NO BROKERS (“PEDDLERS”) WILL BE PERMITTED TO SELL AT THE MARKET.

2. IF WE DON’T GROW IT, WE DON’T SELL IT. All produce sold at the Market must be grown by an approved grower. However, an approved grower may be represented at the Market by a family member. Family members will be defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brothers and sisters.

3. Growers may sell for other approved growers three (3) times in any one season. In the event of extenuating circumstances, the grower may request a waiver from the Oversight Committee.

4. The Market year will begin January 1st and end December 31st.

5. A. An annual fee of $200.00 will be paid at the Annual Growers’ Winter Meeting.
B. All daily stall rentals will be on a first come basis at the rate of $25.00 per day up to a total of $250.00 for the year.

C. Produce vendors will have priority in stall placement over all other vendors. (i.e., crafts, baked goods, etc.)

6. Existing growers who have a $200.00 annual space currently have first choice of the stalls that become available.

7. Occasionally, growers who have an annual stall are not able to come to the Market. In that regard, it will be the Market’s policy to facilitate filling their space in a timely manner that is fair to the other growers and our customers.

8. In order to manage vendor stalls, vendors are required to call the Market cell phone by 6:00 a.m. if they are going to be late or absent for that day. Failure to call will allow Market Manager to assign their stall to a Day Vendor by 6:30 a.m. Market cell phone number is: ___ __ __.__ __ __ __.

9. The Market will be open as produce is available. The regular day and time schedule for the Market will be Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, from 7:00 a.m. or until produce is sold out.

10. A stall shall be 10’ wide, along each side of a center aisle for a customer walkway. Growers must allow walkways between tables for the consideration of the customers. Stalls will be limited to one (1) per grower, unless all stalls are not occupied, in which case a grower may rent an additional stall (or stalls); however, only one (1) stall may be reserved.

11. No lighted signs will be allowed at growers’ stalls. Maximum size of signs will be 24” by 36”.

12. Growers will be required to have available for the benefit of customers, scales capable of weighing up to ten (10) pounds. However, scales will be for estimating purposes only and produce may be sold by container at the option of the grower.

IV. MARKETING/IMAGE

1. Any approved grower may take out ads utilizing the “Gateway Farmers Market” logo to advertise their product. The only stipulation is that the logo will be smaller, so it is clear that the market is not advertising or endorsing any single grower.

2. Growers will be responsible and expected to satisfy any customer complaints regarding their products, by either replacements or refund.

3. All produce is to be clean and displayed in an attractive, inviting manner.

4. Each grower will be responsible for maintaining a clean stall, and will leave their stall clean on departure, each day.
5. No produce shall be left on the premises or in trash barrels. (Requested by city)

V. MANAGEMENT

1. An Oversight Committee will be established to monitor the progress of the market and to provide oversight review of the managers. The committee will hear appeals from the decisions of the manager regarding specific interpretation of these regulations. The committee will be from the community to include: members of the Miller County Conservation District, vendors, interested citizens. An Extension Agent from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service, Miller County, will serve as an advisor.

2. The Market Manager will be responsible for resolving disputes and providing interpretations of the market rules as well as day-to-day operations of the market. Concerns will be submitted in writing to the Oversight Committee, which will be the final authority.

3. The Market Manager will be available at 6:00 a.m. on market days.

4. A signed copy of the application (to serve as an agreement to the rules of the market) will be maintained by the grower and the Market Manager.

VI. VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS

A. The first violation of these regulations will result in a verbal and written warning.

B. The second violation will result in suspension from selling at the Market for the remainder of the season.

C. Growers have the right to appeal to the Oversight Committee. (In writing)

VII. THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMMEND THE ABOVE RULES AND REGULATIONS AT ANY TIME.

APPROVED by Oversight Committee on February 3, 2017.

The Oversight Committee meets at 8:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month, at the Miller County Courthouse, Room 319.