

Units of Sale and Scales

Units of sale

Pricing at farmers' markets is done in a variety of ways. Vendors sell their product by:

By the piece, bunch, head, etc.

For example:

- Apples, 2/\$1.00
- Radishes, \$1.50/bunch
- Lettuce, \$2.00/head

By the container with size clearly marked

For example:

- Blueberries, \$4.00/pint

By weight from a certified scale

For example:

- Tomatoes, \$3.00/lb.

Scales

Scales must be for legal trade and made for commercial use. A legal-for-trade scale will be marked with:

- Serial Number
- Model Number
- Class III designation on the identification plate or seal

All scales must have an NTEP (National Type Evaluation Program) certificate of conformance. The scales must have been manufactured after July 1, 2003 to have this certificate.

Scales suitable for farmers' markets will have ½ ounce or smaller or .01 pound or small increment.

Scales marked "Not Legal for Trade" are not acceptable. Baby scales or kitchen scales are two types of scales that are not legal.

There is no problem with hanging scales as long as they meet all of the criteria. There are some hanging scales that do not meet these criteria, so get the assurance from the vendor in writing. The face of the scale should state that the spring is temperature compensated.

It is the responsibility of the scale owner to have the device inspected and to maintain the accuracy of the scale. Scales should be inspected annually. Some growers report increased sales by using digital scales. With these scales they get an exact price instead

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of rounding down the price to the closest weight. This technology can prevent “nickel and dime” losses.

To have your scale certified or for more information contact:

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

Food and Standards Division

165 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: (860) 713-6161

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