Food Hub Producer Agreement

The purpose of the food hub with Field to Family is to increase the resiliency of the local food system in Eastern Iowa by developing the market, increasing the sale, and building the infrastructure for fresh, sustainably produced food in our region.

In addition, this hub exists to meet institutional demand for local foods, support and develop existing local producers; to support and develop new farmers. The Food Hub seeks to build partnerships and business relationships with other sustainable, local and regional food system participants.

The Food Hub will provide quality produce to its customers in order to meet demand for local food in Eastern Iowa.

The following guidelines will need to be agreed upon by producers working with the food hub:

1. Producers may only sell products through hub that they themselves have raised, grown, processed or crafted. Members may not buy wholesale from someone else and retail the product through the hub. For example, a member may sell tomatoes they grow, but not tomatoes bought from someone else. Exceptions may be granted on an individual basis and must be approved by the hub manager.
2. Producers are responsible for delivering high quality and safe products to the hub that meet our produce specifications. Exceptions can be made when product doesn't meet specifications, exceptions need to be approved by manager in advance of inventory updates and delivery.
3. The Food Hub requires all producers to carry adequate product liability insurance - $1- $2M is a standard amount recommended for producers selling into retail or wholesale channels. The hub also reserves the right to refuse product that does not appear to be of adequate quality, or that is not acceptable for sale, or that appears to have been mishandled.
4. Every producer is responsible to know and be in compliance with all appropriate federal, state and local inspections, licenses, statutes and ordinances. Producer members must comply with FSMA, any relevant health codes or agricultural laws regarding direct sales of farm and food products to the public. Copies of current licenses and renewals need to be provided to the hub to verify compliance. If copies of current licenses are not made available, the hub may restrict the ability of the producer to sell to the hub. FSMA compliance will be mandatory for farmers by March 15, 2019. We encourage farmers to attend a training this fall: https://www.safeproduce.cals.iastate.edu/events.)
5. Producers of Certified Organic, Certified Naturally Grown products, or with any other certified claim, must provide a copy of all current certificates.
6. Every producer selling to the hub must fully disclose information on their products and production practices in the Farmer Application. Examples of production practices that must be fully disclosed include the application of herbicides, insecticides or fungicides on fruits or vegetables. Full disclosure of all production practices is necessary so customers can choose products based on both grower practices and price.
7. All information from Producer Registration Forms will be reviewed by the Food Hub Manager and Food Hub staff. Producers will be notified when they have been approved to sell product through the hub.

8. The Hub reserves the right to verify all production claims made by members. Verification may include farm visits.
9. The hub reserves the right to revise or modify these producer guidelines.
10. Farmer Applications is considered proprietary information, Food Hub Manager and staff will keep records confidential.

Date: _____

Producer Name: _____

Signature: _____