



Selling Food On-Farm or at Your Agribusiness Location

Q: What foods and drinks can I offer or sell on my farm or agribusiness location, and when do I need an SCDA Retail Food Establishment (RFE) permit?

A: While there are no “agribusiness” or “on farm” exemptions for preparing and selling most prepared foods, there are several ways you can provide food for visitors to enjoy (see below).

1. You can offer commercially prepackaged foods like bagged chips, snacks, crackers, and canned or bottled drinks without an RFE permit.
2. You can have a mobile food unit with an RFE permit (food truck or cart) set up and sell anywhere at any time provided they return daily to their permitted commissary for servicing. Permitted food units are required to notify SCDA of their set up locations so routine inspections can be conducted. By allowing a permitted mobile unit to operate on your property, you are required to allow SCDA personnel access to your property at any time the unit is there for an inspection, without delay or obstruction nor any charges such as event or parking fees.

More information →





3. You can hold up to four (4) one-day “Special Promotions” each calendar year to showcase your farm products, with food provided by you or a permitted RFE. An [Event Authorization Application](#) must be submitted, and all food safety requirements in Chapter 9-10 of R.61-25 must be followed.
4. In partnership with a registered nonprofit organization, you may host a “Community Festival” lasting up to three (3) days, in accordance with Chapter 9-9 of R.61-25. An [Event Authorization Application](#) listing all participating food vendors is required.
5. You may offer packaged foods produced under the South Carolina Home-Based Food Production Law (also known as the Cottage Food Law). These products are exempt from permitting under R.61-25, Chapter 8-301.12, *Retail Food Establishments Permits Not Required*. All products must be prepared in a primary home kitchen—not a secondary or separate farm kitchen. For details on allowable foods, see our FAQ: [What foods and drinks can I sell without a permit? Do I need a permit to sell lemonade? What about boiled peanuts?](#)
6. Your farm or agribusiness can host an event catered by a caterer with an RFE permit. The caterer must be paid directly by the farm or agribusiness and may not charge guests individually.

For more information, see the SCDA Retail Food Safety page at agriculture.sc.gov



South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE