



CHEESE

Soft, semi soft, cold pack, hard, hard grating, pasteurized process cheeses

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

All farmers' market vendors must prepare cheese at a DATCP licensed dairy plant.

At the Farmers' Market:

- A PHMDC license is required
- If you are selling in multiple counties, a DATCP Mobile Retail license is required instead of the PHMDC license
- Additional licenses are required when operating simultaneously at multiple markets

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Cheese produced from raw milk must meet the criteria listed in 21 CFR 133. For more information contact DATCP.

STORAGE AND DISPLAY

- Cheese requiring refrigeration must be held at 41°F or below (provide a thermometer)
- Foods for display (not for sale) must be labeled "Display Only"
- Provide a canopy and cover unpackaged foods to protect from contamination
- Transport foods in clean equipment and vehicles. Store food 6 inches off the ground.

- Handle unpackaged foods with gloves, tissues or utensils.

LABELING

- Product name (including the word cheese) and weight
- Name and address of packer, distributor or processor
- Ingredients including allergen information
- Nutritional information required for special nutritional, health or quality claims
- Date of manufacture alphanumeric, numeric or Julian calendar date
- State ID- #55 or Wisconsin, dairy plant and vat ID number

Farmers' markets within Dane County:

Public Health Madison & Dane County
 (608) 242-6515
health@publichealthmdc.com

Food processing licenses and farmers' markets outside of Dane County:

DATCP, Division of Food Safety
 (608) 224-4700
<http://datcp.wi.gov>

Type of cheese	Moisture content	Refrigeration required	Examples
Soft	More than 50%	Yes	Cottage cheese, ricotta, chevre, mozzarella
Semi Soft	44-52%	Yes	Brie, camembert, brick, limburger, blue, muenster,
Hard	36-41%	No, unless product is oiling	Colby, cheddar, and Swiss
Hard Grating	Less than 34%	No	Parmesan, Romano
Cold-Pack		Yes	Cheese spreads
Pasteurized		No	
Cheese Curds	Refer to Cheese Curd Factsheet		