

IFM Grower Cooperative Profile – Tri-County Produce Auction Coop

Auction Overview

Tri-County Produce Auction Coop is a wholesale produce auction with competitively priced organic and conventional fruits, vegetables, flowers, and bedding plants. Large volume buyers can purchase products by attending and bidding at the auction, placing an order with the auction's Order Buyer in advance, or by purchasing through a distributor, such as Loffredo Produce. Prices vary throughout the season, as product is literally auctioned off. The auction was founded by Amish farmers in 2010. The auction brochure

Contact Information

Larry Wirth, Tri-County Auction Order Buyer
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Auction brochure with auction dates/times can be found on IFM website:
<http://ifmwi.org/auctions.aspx>

Product

May: Bedding plants, flower baskets, shrubbery, perennials, spring onions, radishes, lettuce, strawberries, peas, asparagus, spinach

June: May items, plus new potatoes, green beans, cauliflower, broccoli, zucchini, cabbage, cucumbers, beets, strawberries

July: Onions, cabbage, peas, green beans, potatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, beets, tomatoes, cantaloupe, peppers, watermelon, sweet corn, blackberries, raspberries, cut flowers

Aug: July items, plus squash

Sept: Onions, potatoes, green beans, beets, zucchini, kraut cabbage, cantaloupe, watermelon, peppers, sweet corn, squash, pumpkins, gourds, turnips, ornamental corn, fall mums

Oct: The auction may continue in October if product is available



What Buyers Need to Know

- Delivery: Arrange with the Order Buyer or use a distributor that buys at the auction
- Minimum purchasing requirement: No
- Wisconsin local foods program: All produce is local (except peaches)
- Definition of local: 100-miles of the auction
- Traceability: Yes, boxes specify farm of origin
- Point-of-purchase materials: Yes
- Advance notice: Place orders with the Order Buyer before 11:00 AM on auction day
- Standard packaging: Yes
- Produce grading standards: USDA Grade 1 or 2
- Billing: Net-21, cash, check
- Liability insurance: Auctioneer carries insurance, as do distributors that buy at auction
- Food safety: Growers receive training in washing and handling techniques
- Contracts: Not available

What Sellers Need to Know

- Growers must register with the auction
- Minimum requirement to sell: None
- Certifications required: None
- On-farm storage requirements: Produce to be harvested at most 24-hours before the auction
- Liability insurance requirement: None
- Payment for growers: Paid on auction day
- Delivery: Growers bring product to the auction
- Standard packaging: Yes
- Produce grading standards: USDA Grade 1 or 2
- Contracts: Not available