

DIRECT MARKETING STRATEGIES

WEIGHTS, MEASURES, & DEVICE LICENSING

FACT SHEET
3.2



The Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Weights and Measures has established laws and regulations applicable to all sales involving weight or measuring devices, including sales made at Farmers Markets. These laws and regulations were established to ensure that marketplace sales are equal and fair for consumers. As a vendor, you must comply with these rules, but doing so also protects you from negative perceptions from shoppers. An overview of these regulations is provided below and has been adapted from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Weights and Measures.

SCALES, WEIGHTS, & MEASURES REGULATIONS

- ✓ The per pound price of the commodities must be posted.
- ✓ Commodities sold by weight at the point of sale must be weighed on a Legal for Trade Class III or better scale. (Scales that are postal, diet, kitchen, bathroom scales or not legal for trade scales are not acceptable). Some older commercial scales may be used with approval of the state weights & measures official. If you have questions about the acceptability of your scale, please contact your local Weights and Measures official or the Weights and Measures office.
- ✓ Scales must be licensed annually by the Idaho Bureau of Weights and Measures. License applications may be obtained by contacting your local Weights and Measures official or contacting the main Weights and Measures office. If your scale has been tested and approved previously, you will receive your license application by mail in January of the next calendar year.
- ✓ Scales must be tested and approved by an Idaho Weights and Measures official or placed in service by an approved service company before use.
- ✓ All meat, seafood, and poultry must be sold by weight excluding items made for immediate consumption on the premises.

SELLING PRE-PACKAGED COMMODITIES

Prepackaged commodities are commodities of a standard size, like eggs, that are packaged before the point of sale. You may use non-licensed, non-approved scales to prepackage. Prepackaged commodities are required to have a label with the following information:

- ✓ Identity of the commodity and name of the grower/seller.
- ✓ The net quantity of the contents in terms of weight, measure, or count. For example, "Net Wt. 8 oz" or "Net Contents 1 dozen."

