

ASHE COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET

Small-Scale Organic Grower's Declaration of Exemption from Certification

I, _____, declare that I am an organic grower in Ashe County, complying with all production and handling standards of the National Organic Program (NOP) standards **7 CFR Part 205**. These standards include using only National Organic Program &/or OMRI-approved fertilizers and sprays, implementing a farm plan that builds soil fertility and conserves resources, and keeping sufficient records to document my organic practices. I further state that I am exempt from the NOP certification requirements due to the fact that my gross agricultural sales of organic products total less than \$5,000 per year. Therefore, the products I sell, while organically grown, will not be marketed or sold as "Certified Organic," but can be marketed and sold as "local," and "organic," plus any other truthful descriptive terms.

If at any time, my annual gross sales of organic products climbs above \$5,000, I understand that National Organic Program (NOP) standards **7 CFR Part 205** requires me to obtain organic certification from a USDA-accredited certification program, in order to be able to continue using the word "organic" in any of my marketing and sales.

I further understand that the National Organic Program includes criminal penalties for any operator who makes a false statement or knowingly sells or labels a product as organic that is not in accordance with the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 or the NOP Rules. Violators may be subject to criminal prosecution and fined up to \$10,000 per violation. I accept all responsibility in following these rules. Under no circumstance will the Ashe County Farmers' Market or any associated agencies or personnel be liable for any violations on my part, whether due to negligence, ignorance, deceit, or any other cause.

Signed,

Name

Date