

Johnson County Culture - The Iowa City Farmers Market

Reading

Recently, I moved to Iowa City. In my home country, I walked into town almost everyday to go to the market. There, I bought fresh fruits, vegetables and meat. This was very typical for me and my family, but now in Iowa City, this is not the case.

I have noticed that people do not go to the market everyday. Typically, people in Iowa City go grocery shopping once a week. They typically go to big stores like Costco, Walmart, Aldi, or Hy-Vee. They don't walk to small markets in the downtown area. They always drive to the big stores.



"I really miss the fresh fruits and vegetables that I bought at these markets," I told my friend over coffee.

"You should go to the Iowa City Farmers Market with me this Saturday," she suggested.

"I have never heard of this before - what is the Farmers Market? Where is it? What is it like?" I asked her.

Then, she told me all about it and I became so excited! She told me the Farmers Market happens every Saturday from May through October. It is open for four and a half hours from 7:30 am to noon. It is located inside and outside the parking garage on Washington Ave. "Do you know where the Chauncey Hotel is located? Or the New Pioneer Co-op? The Farmers Market is located near there."

At the Farmers Market, local farmers, bakers, and craftsmen sell various things. For example, they sell vegetables, fruit, bread, pastries, honey, flowers, and jewelry. The items are usually hand-made and unique. You can pay with cash, debit cards, credit cards, Venmo, and EBT.

"When should we meet at the Farmers Market?" I asked my friend.

"Let's meet when it opens. We can get a coffee and breakfast there while we walk around and shop. When we are done shopping, we can sit in the grass and listen to the live-music. "

"Perfect! I can't wait to visit the Farmers Market with you!"



Image: Iowa City Farmers Market entrance located 415 E Washington St., Iowa City.

Questions

True or False? If False, correct the statement.

1. There is a farmers market in Iowa City. True / False
2. In the U.S., people typically drive to big grocery stores in order to go grocery shopping. True / False
3. You can visit the Iowa City Farmers Market in April. True / False
4. You can buy all kinds of things at the farmers market including fruits, vegetables, pastries, and farm animals. True / False
5. You can pay with cash, credit card, or EBT there. True / False
6. The farmers market in Iowa City is located near DeLuxe Bakery. True / False
7. The friends plan to get food together at the market. True / False
8. The narrator misses parts of their home country's culture. True / False
9. The friends will meet at the farmers market at 9 am. True / False

Free Response Questions

1. Summarize the information you learned about the Iowa City Farmers Market.
2. What would you buy at the farmers market? Who do you want to go to the farmers market with? Why?
3. How often do people go grocery shopping in the U.S.? Is this similar or different in comparison to the narrator's home country?
4. Where do people go grocery shopping in Iowa City? How are these big stores different in comparison to the farmers market? Can you pay in the same ways at both places (cash, Venmo, etc.)?
5. Who sells products at the farmers market? What products do each type of person sell? (EX: bakers sell products at the farmers market. They sell cookies, bread, etc.)

Share a story

1. Have you visited the Iowa City Farmers Market? If so, what did you buy? What did you enjoy and what did you not dislike about the experience? Have you visited farmers markets in other cities?

2. In your home country, how do you buy groceries? Do you typically drive to a big grocery store? Do you walk to a local market? Do you grow your own fruits and vegetables at home? How is that different to your life now in Iowa?