

## Nutrition Programs at New York State Farmers Markets

**GENERAL INFO SHEET**

*Farmers that direct market their products at farmers markets, farm stands and mobile markets can increase their revenue through the acceptance of the following nutrition assistance programs. These programs help keep local farmers in business and healthy food on the table! Please consider participating in the following programs.*

**WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)**

This program provides low-income pregnant or nursing mothers, infants and children up to the age of five, who are enrolled in the New York State Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) with \$4.00 WIC FMNP checks that can only be used at participating farmers markets, farm stands and mobile markets to purchase fresh, local unprocessed vegetables and fruit. WIC participants receive their \$4.00 WIC FMNP checks at their local county WIC office. Application process is annual.

**Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)**

This program provides eligible, low-income seniors living in New York State with \$4.00 Senior FMNP checks that can only be used at participating farmers markets, farm stands and mobile markets to purchase fresh, local unprocessed vegetables and fruit. Eligibility is based on age and income: 60 years or older, and income not more than 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. Seniors receive their \$4.00 Senior FMNP checks by contacting their local county Office for the Aging or Commodity Supplemental Nutrition Program. Application process is annual.

**NYS Wireless EBT Program (SNAP EBT)**

This program enables both farmers and market coordinators to become authorized vendors in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps). This equips them to accept SNAP benefits using an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card reader in exchange for eligible SNAP food items. At participating farmers markets, SNAP customers may exchange their SNAP benefits for tokens that can be used with vendors at the market for eligible SNAP food items at that market.

**FreshConnect Checks Program (FCC)**

FreshConnect Checks are used to purchase eligible SNAP food items at any farmers' markets, farm stand or mobile market in New York State. SNAP eligible food items include but are not limited to vegetables, fruit, dairy, eggs, bread, jam, honey, and meat.

*For SNAP customers:* At participating farmers markets, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants shopping with their Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) card can receive an additional \$2.00 FreshConnect Check for every \$5.00 in SNAP benefits exchanged for tokens. For each subsequent \$5.00 increment, they will be given an additional \$2.00 FreshConnect Check.

*For Veterans:* FreshConnect Checks are also available to Veterans, Servicemembers, and their immediate family members through Division of Veterans' Affairs offices on a first-come, first-served basis. Veterans may contact 1-888-838-7697 for where they may obtain the benefit.

**For more information, please contact:**

WIC/Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program FreshConnect Checks Program	<b>NYS Department of Agriculture &amp; Markets</b> (518) 457-7076 or (800) 554-4501 <a href="http://www.agriculture.ny.gov">www.agriculture.ny.gov</a> or <a href="mailto:farmersmarkets@agriculture.ny.gov">farmersmarkets@agriculture.ny.gov</a>
NYS Wireless EBT Program (SNAP EBT)	<b>Farmers Market Federation of NYS</b> (315) 400-1447 <a href="mailto:deggert@nyfarmersmarket.com">deggert@nyfarmersmarket.com</a> or <a href="http://www.nyfarmersmarket.com">www.nyfarmersmarket.com</a>



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