



NYS FreshConnect Checks Program (FCC)
RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR VENDORS



Farmers/Vendors Rules and Procedures for the \$2.00 FreshConnect Checks Program:

1. FreshConnect Checks may be issued by the market management to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) customers, shopping with their Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) card, who purchase at least \$2.00 in tokens from the market. They are also issued to Veterans, Servicemembers and their immediate family members through regional Department of Veterans' Services offices on a first come, first serve basis.
2. FreshConnect Checks may be accepted at any operating farmers' market or farms stand in New York State where eligible food items are sold.
3. Eligible food items are based on the [SNAP eligible food items list](#) and include, but not limited to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breads & Cereals • Fruits & Vegetables • Meats, Fish & Poultry • Honey • Coffee (whole beans and/or ground) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple Cider • Dairy Products • Pasta • Baked Goods (for consumption at home) • Seeds/Plants (which produce food)
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4. FreshConnect Checks may be used in conjunction with other benefits including SNAP tokens, Health Bucks, and Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks.

Redemption Process

5. FreshConnect Checks should be stamped with an FMNP stamp if the vendor participates in the FMNP.
6. Vendors not participating in the FMNP, but who sell a SNAP eligible food item, may participate in the FreshConnect Check Program. These vendors should **sign or initial** the FreshConnect Checks when submitting them for reimbursement.
7. FreshConnect Checks may be submitted for reimbursement starting **February 1, 2023**.
8. FreshConnect Checks must be received for reimbursement no later than **January 15, 2024**.
9. FreshConnect Checks must be mailed to the Farmers Market Federation of NY; redemption is not through the bank.
 - a. Vendors need to complete and include a "Redemption Form" with each submission; This information is required for reimbursement.
 - b. A reimbursement check will be mailed and may take up to 4 weeks for the vendor to receive.
10. For reimbursement, FreshConnect Checks must be mailed to:

Farmers' Market Federation of New York
 109 Twin Oaks Drive Suites U2-4
 Syracuse, NY 13206

For more information and training on the program please visit www.agriculture.ny.gov or contact the Department via email farmersmarkets@agriculture.ny.gov or phone: 518-457-7076x1.