



FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM



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Maryland Department of Agriculture



PLEASE SIGN IN!



FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (FMNP) OVERVIEW

- The FMNP program is a USDA Supplemental Nutrition Grant Program.
- The USDA provides grants to state agencies to provide checks to low-income participants.
- Two programs funded: Women, Infants and Children (WIC) (FMNP) and Seniors (SFMNP).
- Checks can be used to buy **fresh fruits, vegetables, cut herbs and honey (Seniors only)** at farmers' markets.
- In 2015, farmers received more than \$449,000 through the two programs.



HOW THE FMNP PROGRAMS WORK



MDA provides checks to DHMH & DOA



DOA distributes checks to eligible Seniors



DHMH distributes checks to eligible WIC participants



Participants use checks to buy produce from FMNP authorized farmers at markets



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Must qualify based on income (185% of federal poverty level)
Must have proof of residency in Maryland

WIC - \$20

- Applicants must be pregnant women, infants, or children up to 5 years and have a nutritional need
- WIC participants receive nutrition education, breastfeeding support, health screenings & referrals to other community support programs
- Can sign up at [WIC clinics](#)

SENIORS - \$30

- Applicants must be 60 or over
- Must certify income eligibility on application form
- Can sign up at participating [Senior Centers](#)



FARMER ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

Authorized FMNP Farmers must meet the following standards:

- ❖ The farmer must complete the Maryland FMNP Farmer Application & Agreement.
- ❖ The farmer must agree to abide by all FMNP rules.
- ❖ The farmer must sell fruits, vegetables and/or cut herbs and honey (seniors only) grown only in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware or Pennsylvania at a Maryland Farmers Market.
- ❖ The farmer must not accept FMNP checks for agricultural produce obtained from wholesale distributors. FMNP checks can only be accepted as payment for produce grown by the authorized farmer.
- ❖ The farmer must be in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local governmental laws and regulations and obtain all necessary licenses and permits.

Farmer Application & Agreement is due to Shelby Watson **no later than April 30.**



TRAINING

- Required 1st year in program
- Then once every 3 years thereafter
- MDA offers many training dates each year from March – July throughout the state and online
- Dates are posted on Maryland's Best, Maryland WIC and sent to renewing farmers



RULES & REGULATIONS

- ❖ FMNP checks can only be redeemed for fresh fruits, vegetables, fresh cut herbs and honey (seniors only) grown by the farmer applicant. Checks cannot be redeemed for tropical fruits, citrus fruits, baked goods, jams, jellies, cider, flowers, plants, eggs, nuts, cheese, meats, seafood, crafts, etc.
- ❖ FMNP checks can only be redeemed at farmers' markets as defined by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). Farmers may only redeem FMNP checks at private farm stands if they also sell at a farmers market. Only authorized FMNP farmers can redeem checks. Authorized FMNP farmers cannot accept FMNP checks from unauthorized farmers or vendors.
- ❖ All authorized FMNP farmers are required to display the "WIC & Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program" sign and **their associated farm name**.



FARMERS ARE REQUIRED TO
DISPLAY THEIR FARM NAME
& THE FARMERS MARKET
NUTRITION PROGRAM SIGN

**OLD
MACDONALD'S
FARM**

**This sign lets WIC customers
know they can spend their
FVCs at your stand.**

**Farmers Market
Nutrition Program**
(FMNP - WIC & Seniors)

**Checks
and
WIC Fruit &
Vegetable Checks**

WELCOME HERE



Sponsored by:
Maryland WIC Program 1-800-242-4WIC (4942)
Maryland Department of Agriculture 1-800-495-5590
Maryland Department of Aging 1-800-243-3425

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

- ❖ Authorized FMNP farmers cannot charge FMNP customers more for their fruits, vegetables, fresh cut herbs and honey than they charge other customers. FMNP customers must be shown the same courtesies as all other customers and FMNP authorized farmers agree not to discriminate against any FMNP customer on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap or disability.
- ❖ FMNP checks cannot be exchanged for cash or change. Whenever possible, authorized FMNP farmers should help FMNP customers use the full value of their checks by making up the difference with additional produce items. The FMNP customer must pay the difference when the purchase exceeds the value of the check(s).
- ❖ Authorized FMNP farmers must check the customer's WIC Identification folder. FMNP checks must be signed in the presence of the FMNP authorized farmer and the signatures must match the WIC identification folder.
- ❖ FMNP checks are valid from June 1st through November 30th. Authorized FMNP farmers will not be reimbursed for checks accepted after November 30th. All FMNP Checks must be deposited at the bank no later than December 5th.



WHAT WAS NEW IN 2014

- FMNP + FVC joint application & enrollment
- No longer authorizing Farmers' Markets
- Farmers must submit a list of markets that they participate in every year
- Farmer authorization is now 3 years
- Checks may be accepted at farm stands **only if** the farmer sells at a Farmers' Market
- Color of the checks changes every year.
- Potatoes (of any variety) are now allowed to be purchased with both FVC & FMNP checks.



WIC & SFMNP KEY DATES

- **April 30:** Farmer FMNP applications due
- **June - July :** Checks issued to eligible participants (WIC & Seniors)
- **June 1:** First date that farmers may accept checks at markets or on-farm stands
- **November 30:** Last date that farmers may accept checks at markets or on-farm stands
- **December 5:** Last date that farmers may deposit checks for the season



ELIGIBLE FOODS

WIC: Eligible foods include all locally grown fruits, vegetables and cut herbs **except honey** grown by the authorized farmer. Eligible foods may not be processed or prepared beyond their natural state except for usual harvesting and cleaning processes.

Seniors: all of the above + honey



INELIGIBLE FOODS



FMNP (WIC)

Maryland 2016 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Pay to the order of authorized
Maryland Farmers' Market Vendor

Farmer must deposit no later than December 5, 2016
NOT VALID AT GROCERY STORES

Good for the purchase of fresh, locally grown
vegetables, fruits, and cut herbs from a FMNP
Vendor. Any other use constitutes fraud.



Check out our **Farmers Market Finder** site
on your mobile phone at
<http://farmersmarketfinder.ub1.co/>



CITIZENS ALLIANCE BANK • HOWARD LAKE BRANCH • CLARA CITY, MN 56222

Account # 806629

75-1248/919

XXXXXX

FIRST DATE OF USE | LAST DATE OF USE

6/01/16 | 11/30/16

PAY EXACTLY

\$ 5.00

NO CHANGE GIVEN

STAMP AUTHORIZED FMNP

VENDOR NUMBER HERE

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE

MP

SFMNP (Seniors)

Maryland 2016 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Pay to the order of authorized
Maryland Farmers' Market Vendor

Farmer must deposit no later than December 5, 2016
NOT VALID AT GROCERY STORES

Good for the purchase of fresh, locally grown
vegetables, fruits, honey, and cut herbs from a
SFMNP Vendor. Any other use constitutes fraud.



Check out our **Farmers Market Finder** site
on your mobile phone at
<http://farmersmarketfinder.ub1.co/>



CITIZENS ALLIANCE BANK • HOWARD LAKE BRANCH • CLARA CITY, MN 56222

Account # 806637

75-1248/919

XXXXXX

FIRST DATE OF USE | LAST DATE OF USE

6/01/16 | 11/30/16

PAY EXACTLY

\$ 5.00

NO CHANGE GIVEN

STAMP AUTHORIZED FMNP

VENDOR NUMBER HERE

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE

MP

STEPS TO ACCEPTING A FMNP CHECK

- Customer presents check & WIC ID folder to farmer
- Customer signs check in black or blue ink
- Farmer verifies signature against WIC ID folder

Steps to Accepting a Senior FMNP Check

- Customer presents check
- Customer signs check in blue or black ink.
- (No ID needed for seniors)



- Make sure participant or Senior has signed the check
- Farmer may add to product to make up the difference if the full value of the check is not being used.
- **But NO cash change may be given**
- Participants can buy other products with their own money



MARYLAND WIC PROGRAM
Participant Identification Folder

Number of Participants (print) _____ WIC ID Number _____

Doe, Jane	200 418 231
Doe, Infant	200 123 457

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN WIC CHECKS

Jane Doe
Head of Household (print) _____ Signature _____
Phone (print) _____
Phone (print) _____

If this folder is found, please contact the local WIC agency below:

BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPT.
WIC PROGRAM
421 S. EIGH STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21205
Phone: 410.396.6000

3030

WIC food only with WIC card

Bring this ID Folder to all WIC appointments and to the store when you shop for WIC foods.



Our paying bank **will not** honor FMNP checks which are missing farmer stamps, have an unreadable farmer stamp, invalid farmer stamp, missing FMNP participant signature, checks which have been torn, marked “VOID” or altered in any way, or checks issued in a prior year or checks that have expired.

QUANTITIES ONLY: PARTICIPANT OR PROXY SIGN FOR PRICE C

12) canned beans, peas, or lentils OR 18 oz or less peanut butter
concentrate juice
-free (nonfat) fluid milk

Missing Signature
Do Not Redeposit

15-1144
918

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT OR AUTHORIZED PROXY

X



Please always double check your checks before depositing them.



MORE INFORMATION

- Handouts available:
 - General program & participant information
 - MDA FMNP Rules & Regulations
 - FMNP Farmer Application Form & Agreement
- MDA Farmers' Market page:
http://mda.maryland.gov/maryland_products/Pages/farmers_market_dir.aspx
- USDA WIC Program:
 - <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>
- USDA Seniors Program:
 - <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/SeniorFMNP/SFMNPmenu.htm>



ONLINE INFORMATION



Maryland Products

- > Advertising Agricultural Products as Local or Locally Grown
- > Fam to School
- > Farmers Market
- > Fruits and Vegetables
- > Grain
- > Hay and Straw Directory
- > International Trade
- > International Buyers
- > Nurseries & Plant Dealers
- > Organic Certification Program
- > Poultry & Eggs
- > Renewable Fuels
- > Turf & Seed
- > Wine & Grapes
- > Specialty Crop Grants

Contact Information

Shelby Watson
Program Coordinator

Telephone: 410-841-5776

Related Information

-  [So You Want to Start A Farmers Market](#)
- [2014 Farmers Market Conference](#)

On the Web

Maryland Farmers Market Information



Note: Registration for the 2015 Farmers Market Conference is FULL! If you missed the registration deadline, conference materials and a video of all conference speakers will be available here after the conference.

To locate a farmers market on Maryland's Best:

- Go to <http://marylandsbest.net/>
- Click on the "Find Me Local" tab
- Select "Farmers Market" from the "Search by Category" section
- Choose other search parameters to narrow your results - such as county, within a radius of your location, market name, or markets where federal nutrition programs benefits like the Farmers Market Nutrition Program are accepted by authorized farmers.

2015 Farmers Market Directory coming soon! Download a printable PDF here: [2014 Maryland Farmers Market Directory](#) Maryland WIC  [Farmers' Market Cookbook](#)



MARYLAND WIC PROGRAM

FVC Farmer Training

WIC

Farmers' Market



WHAT IS WIC?

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) is a supplemental nutrition program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is administered in Maryland by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. WIC services are provided in Maryland to nearly 145,000 eligible participants at 18 WIC Local Agencies with 85 clinics statewide.



FVC Overview & Role of the Farmer

- Only a small percentage of FVCs are redeemed at farmers markets; the majority are accepted at authorized grocery stores.
- Participants receive other checks in addition to FVCs such as checks for milk or cereal.
- As a WIC authorized farmer you play a **key** role in ensuring that WIC Participants can purchase fresh fruits and vegetables with the FVC checks they receive from the WIC Program.
- There are important differences between the FMNP checks and the WIC FVC.
- Farmers must participate in FMNP to accept FVCs.



What Can be Purchased with a WIC FVC



WIC FVCs are issued in \$8, \$11 and \$17 denominations. WIC participants may purchase any produce with their FVC except: fruit baskets, herbs, dried fruit, salad kits, fruit or vegetables with dip. (See Handbook for more details)

THIS CHECK IS VOID WITHOUT A BLUE & RED BACKGROUND AND AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK ON THE BACK - HOLD AT ANGLE TO VIEW

	AGENCY	PARTICIPANT ID NO.	NAME OF PARTICIPANT (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)			CHECK NUMBER
	111101	200 708 439	Test, Friday			65730059
	FIRST DATE TO SPEND	July 04, 2013	DATE REDEEMED	STORE USE ONLY	LAST DATE TO SPEND	CASHIER FILL IN EXACT AMOUNT OF SALE
					August 03, 2013	
CATEGORY: PG TO BE USED FOR THESE ITEMS & QUANTITIES ONLY: _____ PARTICIPANT OR PROXY SIGN FOR PRICE CORRECTION ONLY _____						DOLLARS
10 (Ten) dollars for Fruits and Vegetables <h2 style="margin: 0;">Also accepted by WIC Farmers</h2>						CENTS
Maryland WIC Program Payable through FSMC An Affiliate of Security State Bank Howard Lake, MN 55349 Account Number: 806610 75-1248 919						\$
SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT OR AUTHORIZED PROXY						CHECKS NOT VALID UNLESS STAMPED BY AUTHORIZED WIC VENDOR
X						VENDOR MUST DEPOSIT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF LAST DATE TO SPEND



Steps to Accepting a FVC

- Customer presents FVC & WIC ID folder to farmer
- Farmer checks dates to spend on FVC
- Farmer totals produce selected by participant
- Farmer writes dollar amount on FVC in black or blue ink
- Customer signs check in black or blue ink
- Farmer verifies signature against WIC ID folder



Participant ID Folder

MARYLAND WIC PROGRAM
Participant Identification Folder

Names of Participants (print)	WIC ID Number
Doe, Jane	200 418 731
Doe, Infant	200 123 457

Better nutrition choices for a brighter future

MARYLAND WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN PROGRAM

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN WIC CHECKS

Jane Doe
Head of Household (print) *Jane Doe*
Signature

Proxy (print) _____ Signature

Proxy (print) _____ Signature

If this folder is found, please contact the local WIC agency below:

BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPT.
WIC PROGRAM
621 N. EDEH STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21205
Local WIC Agency PHONE APPOINTMENTS (410) 396-9427

3030
Folder valid only with Stamp here.

Bring this ID Folder to all WIC appointments and to the store when you shop for WIC foods.

Participants must show you their WIC ID folder **prior** to making purchases. **No other identification is necessary.**

There must be at least one name (first and last) with a WIC I.D. number. There may be as many as six names, each with a different number. The check being used must match a name and I.D. number listed here.

NOTE: There are instances in which a participant number will not appear on the check (For example: the WIC Participant has been issued manual checks)

There must be **at least** one signature and there may be up to three. One signature **must match the signed name** on the WIC check.

There must be a local agency identification stamp. (If a participant leaves their folder at your stand call the phone number stamped on the folder.)



What to Look For on a FVC

THIS CHECK IS VOID WITHOUT A BLUE & RED BACKGROUND AND AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK ON THE BACK - HOLD AT ANGLE TO VIEW

	AGENCY	PARTICIPANT ID NO.	NAME OF PARTICIPANT (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)		CHECK NUMBER
	111101	200 708 439	Test, Friday		65730059
FIRST DATE TO SPEND	July 04, 2013	EXPIRE DATE ONLY	LAST DATE TO SPEND	August 03, 2013	EXACT AMOUNT PAID
CATEGORY: PG	TO BE USED FOR THESE ITEMS & QUANTITIES ONLY:			DOLLARS	CENTS
	10 (Ten) dollars for Fruits and Vegetables			\$	
Also accepted by WIC Farmers				CHECKS NOT VALID UNLESS STAMPED BY AUTHORIZED WIC VENDOR	
Maryland WIC Program	Payable through FSMC An Affiliate of Security State Bank Howard Lake, MN 55349 Account Number: 806610	75-1248 919	SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT OR AUTHORIZED PROXY		VENDOR MUST DEPOSIT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF LAST DATE TO SPEND
		X			

- FVCs have a first date to spend, and last date to spend.
- FVCs must be deposited within 30 days of the last date to spend.
- FVCs show their face value (Do not fill in more than the face value!)
- Look for the “Fruits and Vegetables” watermark



FVC Corrections

- Corrections to the WIC FVC must be made at the time of the transaction.
- Draw a single line through the incorrect price (do not attempt to trace over the price or draw multiple lines!)
- Write the correct price directly above the incorrect price.
- Have the customer sign on the correction authorization line.
- If you believe you have followed the proper procedures and the FVC is still rejected, please send it to the State Office for review within 45 days of the last date to spend on the check using the FVC reimbursement form found in the WIC Farmer Handbook.



Proper FVC Correction Example

THIS CHECK IS VOID WITHOUT A BLUE & RED BACKGROUND AND AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK ON THE BACK - HOLD AT ANGLE TO VIEW

	AGENCY	PARTICIPANT ID NO.	NAME OF PARTICIPANT (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)			CHECK NUMBER						
	111101	200 835 092	Test, Alice R.			75154788						
	FIRST DATE TO SPEND	DATE REDEEMED	STORE USE ONLY	LAST DATE TO SPEND	CASHIER FILL IN EXACT AMOUNT OF SALE							
	February 23, 2015		/ /	March 17, 2015	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>DOLLARS</td> <td>CENTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$ 8</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </table>		DOLLARS	CENTS	8	00	\$ 8	50
DOLLARS	CENTS											
8	00											
\$ 8	50											
CATEGORY: C2		PARTICIPANT OR PROXY SIGN FOR PRICE CORRECTION ONLY										
TO BE USED FOR THESE ITEMS & QUANTITIES ONLY:		<p>8 (Eight) dollars for Fruits and Vegetables</p> <p><i>Alice Test</i></p>										
<p>Also accepted by WIC Farmers</p>		CHECKS NOT VALID UNLESS STAMPED BY AUTHORIZED WIC VENDOR										
Maryland WIC Program	Payable through FSMC An Affiliate of Security State Bank Howard Lake, MN 55349 Account Number: 806610	75-1248 919	SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT OR AUTHORIZED PROXY			VENDOR MUST DEPOSIT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF LAST DATE TO SPEND						
		X	<i>Alice Test</i>									

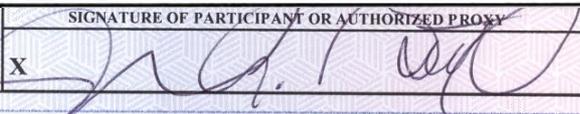
⑈ 75154788⑈ ⑆091912482⑆ 806610⑈

A single line is drawn through the incorrect price. The correct price is written direction above the incorrect price. The WIC customer must sign again on the price correction line.



Improperly Corrected Check Example

THIS CHECK IS VOID WITHOUT A BLUE & RED BACKGROUND AND AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK ON THE BACK - HOLD AT ANGLE TO VIEW

	AGENCY	PARTICIPANT ID NO.	NAME OF PARTICIPANT (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)			CHECK NUMBER	
	010103	200 292 952	DOE, MIKA N.			44649227	
FIRST DATE TO SPEND		January 2010	DATE DEEMED	STORE USE ONLY	LAST DATE TO SPEND	CASHIER FILL IN EXACT AMOUNT OF SALE	
					February 19, 2010		
CATEGORY: PG			PARTICIPANT OR PROXY SIGN FOR PRICE CORRECTION ONLY			DOLLARS	CENTS
TO BE USED FOR THESE ITEMS & QUANTITIES ONLY:						\$	10
10 (Ten) dollars for Fruits and Vegetables						CHECKS NOT VALID UNLESS STAMPED BY AUTHORIZED WIC VENDOR	
Also accepted by WIC Farmers			SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT OR AUTHORIZED PROXY			VENDOR MUST DEPOSIT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF LAST DATE TO SPEND	
Maryland WIC Program	Payable through FSMC An Affiliate of Security State Bank Howard Lake, MN 55349 Account Number: 806610	75-1248 919	X 				



Do not use X's or attempt to trace over the incorrect price. In this example, the customer was not asked to sign on the price correction line. These mistakes will cause the bank to reject the FVC for payment.



The Fruit and Vegetable Check

- FVC face values are \$8, \$11 and \$17.
- FVCs may only be used for the purchase of allowed fruits and vegetables (Please see your Farmer's Handbook).
- FVCs can only be accepted between the first and last date to spend! (filling in the *date redeemed* field is optional).
- FVC purchases may be combined with cash purchases (*if the total of the items being purchased exceeds the value of the check(s), the customer can make up the difference*)
- **NEVER** fill in a purchase amount on an FVC that is higher than the face value! If you do, the FVC **will be rejected** for payment by the bank.
- No cash is given to the WIC participant if the purchase amount is less than the FVC face value!
- WIC participants may use FVCs and FMNP checks at Farmers' Markets & on-Farm Stands with authorized farmers.



Simple FVC Payment Rules

- **NOTE: FVCs must be deposited in the bank within 30 days of the last date as specified on the front of the check.**
- FVCs deposited later than 30 days from the last date to spend will be rejected by the bank and cannot be paid!
- FVCs rejected **for any reason other than being accepted prior to or after the dates to spend or missing signature** may be submitted to the State WIC office for payment review.
- FVCs submitted for payment review must be submitted within 45 days of the last date to spend as specified on the front of the FVC.



WIC FVC & FMNP Comparison

THIS CHECK IS VOID WITHOUT A BLUE & RED BACKGROUND AND AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK ON THE BACK - HOLD AT ANGLE TO VIEW

	AGENCY	PARTICIPANT ID NO.	NAME OF PARTICIPANT (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)			CHECK NUMBER
	111101	200 708 439	Test, Friday			65730059
FIRST DATE TO SPEND		July 04, 2013	DATE REDEEMED	STORE USE ONLY	LAST DATE TO SPEND	CASHIER FILL IN EXACT AMOUNT OF SALE
			/ /		August 03, 2013	
CATEGORY: PG						DOLLARS
TO BE USED FOR THESE ITEMS & QUANTITIES ONLY:						CENTS
10 (Ten) dollars for Fruits and Vegetables						\$
Also accepted by WIC Farmers						CHECKS NOT VALID UNLESS STAMPED BY AUTHORIZED WIC VENDOR
Maryland WIC Program Payable through FSMC An Affiliate of Security State Bank Howard Lake, MN 55349 Account Number: 806610		SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT OR AUTHORIZED PROXY		VENDOR MUST DEPOSIT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF LAST DATE TO SPEND		
		75-1248-919 X				

Maryland 2015 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program		Account # 806629 75-1248/919	700001
Pay to the order of authorized Maryland Farmers' Market Vendor		FIRST DATE OF USE: 6/01/15 LAST DATE OF USE: 11/30/15	
Farmer must deposit no later than December 5, 2015 NOT VALID AT GROCERY STORES		PAY EXACTLY \$ 5.00 NO CHANGE GIVEN	
Good for the purchase of fresh, locally grown vegetables, fruits, and cut herbs from a FMNP Vendor. Any other use constitutes fraud.		STAMP AUTHORIZED FMNP	
 Check out our Farmers Market Finder site on your mobile phone at http://farmersmarketfinder.cb1.co/		VENDOR NUMBER HERE	
 CITIZENS ALLIANCE BANK • HOWARD LAKE BRANCH • CLARA CITY, MN 56222		PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE	

⑈ 70000 ⑆ ⑆ 09 19 1 248 2 ⑆ 8066 29 ⑆



Comparison Between WIC Fruit & Vegetable Checks (FVC) and Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) Checks

	FVC WIC Fruit & Vegetable Checks	FMNP Farmers' Market Nutrition Program checks
<i>When Issued</i>	Monthly	Once/year during the market season
<i>What are the values of the checks?</i>	\$8 \$11 \$17	\$5 (4 checks totaling \$20)
<i>Can the participant pay cash if the purchase price exceeds the value of the check?</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Can the participant receive change if the purchase price is less than the value of the check?</i>	No	No
<i>Is the participant's name on the check?</i>	Yes	No
<i>Customer Usage</i>	Participant must use check between the dates listed on the checks	Participant may use check anytime between June 1 and November 30
	Farmers are required to write the purchase price on all checks	Price is pre-filled
	Participant must sign checks and present ID Folder	Participant must sign checks and present ID Folder
<i>Product Types</i>	Fruits and Vegetables from any source	Grown in Maryland or contiguous counties of bordering states
	No herbs	Herbs allowed
<i>Deposit Procedure</i>	Farmers are to put assigned FMNP stamp on all FVC checks	Farmers are to put assigned FMNP stamp on all FMNP checks
	Check needs to be deposited within 30 days of the last date-to-spend on check	Farmers can deposit checks anytime between June 1 and December 5
	Farmer responsible for returned check charges if returned by the bank	Farmer responsible for returned check charges if returned by the bank
<i>Agreement with the State</i>	Each individual farmer must have a signed written agreement with the State WIC Program	Each individual farmer must have a signed written agreement with the MD Dept of Agriculture once every three years and provide locations to MDA annually
<i>Training</i>	Each farmer must attend training on regulations and procedures with WIC FVC	Each farmer must attend training on regulations and procedures with FMNP in first year of program participation, and every three years thereafter
<i>Questions</i>	Contact the WIC Vendor Unit at 410-767-5242	Contact the Dept of Agriculture at 410-841-5776

Complaint Process

In your Handbook is a copy of the Farmer Complaint Form.

Please use this form to document any difficulties you experience with WIC customers.

Please provide all pertinent information (who, what, when, where, witnesses, etc.) on the form and fax or mail it to the State WIC Office at the number and address on the form. All farmer complaints are handled as soon as possible.

Remember, we can't do anything about the problem if we are not aware of it!



Maryland WIC Farmer Handbook

A Farmer Handbook is issued to all participating WIC farmers.

**MARYLAND WIC PROGRAM &
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



FARMER'S HANDBOOK

2015



Maryland WIC Farmer Handbook

The Farmer Handbook is a valuable resource containing useful information such as:

- ✓ Who to call for help or questions
- ✓ Instructions for processing FVCs
- ✓ Rules and guidelines that WIC farmers must follow
- ✓ Information is also available online at

www.mdwic.org



POINTS OF CONTACT

- MDA:

Shelby Watson
FMNP Administrator
50 Harry S Truman Pkwy.
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: (410) 841-5776
Email: shelby.watson@maryland.gov



- DHMH

Terri Buckler
MD WIC Program
201 W. Preston St., 1st Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: (410) 767- 5722
Email: terri.buckler@maryland.gov

