



FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

FMNP, SFMNP, & FVC



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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 2016, farmers received **\$470,665** through the two programs, **\$37,000** more than 2015.

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 or have recently given birth, 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 due to MDA
no later than April 30.



FARMER TRAINING

- In person training required 1st year in program
- Annual updates required thereafter
- MDA offers many training dates each year from March – July throughout the state and online
- Dates are posted Maryland's Best, Maryland WIC 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, and private farm stands. 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**.

- 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).
- FMNP checks must be signed in the presence of the FMNP authorized farmer.
- 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.

REQUIRED SIGNS

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

MarylandWIC
Better Nutrition Brighter Future



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.

RECENT CHANGES TO REMEMBER

- 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 FMNP checks change every year.
- Potatoes (of any variety) are now allowed to be purchased with both FVC & FMNP checks.
- No longer need to see WIC FMNP folders.

WIC, FMMP & 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



2017 FMNP (WIC)

Maryland 2017 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Pay to the order of authorized
Maryland Farmers' Market Vendor
Farmer must deposit no later than December 5, 2017
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

000000

STAMP AUTHORIZED FMNP

FIRST DATE OF USE LAST DATE OF USE

6/01/17

11/30/17

PAY EXACTLY

\$ 5.00

NO CHANGE GIVEN

VENDOR NUMBER HERE

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE

MP

2017 SFMNP

Maryland 2017 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Pay to the order of authorized
Maryland Farmers' Market Vendor
Farmer must deposit no later than December 5, 2017
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

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STAMP AUTHORIZED FMNP

FIRST DATE OF USE LAST DATE OF USE

6/01/17

11/30/17

PAY EXACTLY

\$ 5.00

NO CHANGE GIVEN

VENDOR NUMBER HERE

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE

MP

STEPS TO ACCEPTING A FMNP CHECK

The customer should:

- Select the produce they wish to purchase.
- Inform the farmer they are paying with an FMNP or SFMNP check.
- Give the farmer the FMNP or SFMNP check.
- Sign the check on the signature line.

The farmer should:

- Allow purchases to be combined with cash purchases (*if the total of the items being purchased exceeds the value of the check, the customer makes up the difference*).
- **Not** provide change if the purchase amount is less than the face value (\$5) of the FMNP check.
- Allow FMNP checks to be combined (*for example, two \$5 FMNP checks may be used for a \$10 total purchase*).



BE SURE CHECKS ARE SIGNED AND STAMPED

Our bank **will not** pay FMNP checks which are missing farmer stamps, have an unreadable or invalid stamps, missing signatures, 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		Missing Signature Void Do Not Redeposit
concentrate juice		
1-free (nonfat) fluid milk		
15-1144 918	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT OR AUTHORIZED PROXY



WIC FRUIT & VEGETABLE CHECKS (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
	010102	200 835 092	Test, Alice R.			76772876
	FIRST DATE TO SPEND	June 21, 2015	DATE REDEEMED	STORE USE ONLY	LAST DATE TO SPEND	CASHIER FILL IN EXACT AMOUNT OF SALE
					July 21, 2015	DOLLARS CENTS
CATEGORY: C3 TO BE USED FOR THESE ITEMS & QUANTITIES ONLY: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> 8 (Eight) dollars for Fruits and Vegetables </div>						\$ <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div>
PARTICIPANT OR PROXY SIGN FOR PRICE CORRECTION ONLY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div>						
<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">Also accepted by WIC Farmers</div>						
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 <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">X</div>			CHECKS NOT VALID UNLESS STAMPED BY AUTHORIZED WIC VENDOR <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div>	
					VENDOR MUST DEPOSIT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF LAST DATE TO SPEND	

MDA WEBSITE



Maryland Products

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

Contact Information

Shelby Watson

Program Coordinator

Telephone: 410-841-5776

shelby.watson@maryland.gov




Related Information

-  [So You Want to Start A Farmers Market](#)
- [Marketing Tips](#)

Information for Maryland Farmers Markets



Note: Information on this page is for farmers market managers, farmers and vendors. If you are a consumer looking for a farmers market near you, visit [Maryland's Best](#). Once on the page, see instructions below.

- At the top of the page, select your City or County in the "Locations" section
- Select "Farmers Market" from the "Category" section
- For a more detailed search, use the "Advanced Search" on the right side of the home page to find markets where federal nutrition programs benefits like the Farmers Market Nutrition Program are accepted by authorized farmers.
-  [Winter Farmers Market Guide](#). A listing of all farmers markets that are open during winter months.
-  [Farmers Market Directory](#). Note: This is the current listing of the Farmers Market Directory. As new information becomes available we will continue to update the directory throughout the season.
-  [Maryland WIC 2016 Farmers' Market Cookbook](#) and  [2015 Farmers' Market Cookbook](#)

POINTS OF CONTACT

MDA:

Farmers Market Nutrition Program Administrator
50 Harry S Truman Pkwy.
Annapolis, MD 21401
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DHMH:

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