



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries & Consumer Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

Earl F. Hance, Secretary

Mary Ellen Setting, Deputy Secretary

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Internet: www.mda.state.md.us

410.841.5700 Baltimore/Washington

301.261.8106 Washington, D.C.

410.841.5914 Fax

800.492.5590 Toll Free

FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM - 2012 RULES

1. **FMNP checks can only be redeemed for fresh fruits, vegetables, cut herbs and honey* grown or produced 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. **Honey is approved for Seniors only.*
2. **FMNP checks can only be redeemed at farmers' markets which have been authorized by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to participate in the FMNP.** Farmers cannot redeem checks at unauthorized farmers' markets or private farm stands.
3. **Only authorized FMNP farmers can redeem checks. Authorized FMNP farmers cannot accept FMNP checks from unauthorized farmers or vendors.**
4. All authorized FMNP farmers are required to display the **"WIC & Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program"** sign **and their associated farm name.**
5. Authorized FMNP farmers agree to meet with WIC and Senior FMNP check distribution coordinators in their respective market area, to exchange market information and check distribution information. These meetings are subject to prior arrangement and work schedules of the participants.
6. Authorized FMNP farmers cannot charge FMNP customers more for their fruits, vegetables and fresh cut herbs 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, or disability.
7. 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).
8. Authorized FMNP farmers must check the customer's WIC Identification Card. FMNP checks must be signed in the presence of the FMNP authorized farmer and the signatures must match the identification.
9. FMNP checks are valid from June 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012. Authorized FMNP farmers will not be reimbursed for checks accepted after November 30, 2012. **All FMNP Checks must be deposited at the bank no later than December 7, 2012.**

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



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries & Consumer Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

Earl F. Hance, Secretary

Mary Ellen Setting, Deputy Secretary

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Internet: www.mda.state.md.us

410.841.5700 Baltimore/Washington

301.261.8106 Washington, D.C.

410.841.5914 Fax

800.492.5590 Toll Free

FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM – 2012 ELIGIBLE FOODS

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks can only be used for eligible foods. Eligible foods include all locally grown fruits, vegetables and 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. Examples of ineligible foods include: honey, jams, jellies, breads, maple syrup, cider, nuts, seeds, dried plums (prunes), dried chilies or tomatoes, eggs, meat, cheese and seafood.

SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM – 2012 ELIGIBLE FOODS

Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) checks can only be used for eligible foods grown by the authorized farmer. Eligible foods include all locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs *and honey*. Eligible foods may not be processed or prepared beyond their natural state except for usual harvesting and cleaning processes. Examples of ineligible foods include: jams, jellies, breads, maple syrup, cider, nuts, seeds, dried plums (prunes), dried chilies or tomatoes, eggs, meat, cheese and seafood.



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries & Consumer Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

Earl F. Hance, Secretary

Mary Ellen Setting, Deputy Secretary

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Internet: www.mda.state.md.us

410.841.5700 Baltimore/Washington

301.261.8106 Washington, D.C.

410.841.5914 Fax

800.492.5590 Toll Free

FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM **2012 KEY DATES**

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| February 28 & 29 | Maryland Farmers' Market Conference |
| April 1 | FMNP farmer applications due to MDA
(send to Attn: Amy Crone, 50 Harry S. Truman
Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21403) |
| May – July | FMNP and SFMNP checks issued to eligible
participants (WIC & seniors) |
| June 1 | First date that farmers may accept FMNP/SFMNP
checks at farmers' markets |
| June to
November | Farmers may accept checks at markets |
| November 30 | Last date that farmers may accept FMNP/SFMNP
checks at farmers' markets |
| December 7 | Last date that farmers may deposit FMNP/SFMNP
checks for 2012 |



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries & Consumer Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

Earl F. Hance, Secretary

Mary Ellen Setting, Deputy Secretary

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Internet: www.mda.state.md.us

410.841.5700 Baltimore/Washington

301.261.8106 Washington, D.C.

410.841.5914 Fax

800.492.5590 Toll Free

FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM **2012 FARMERS' MARKET PROCEDURES**

- The market must be authorized by the State of Maryland in order for the farmers to accept farmers' market nutrition program vouchers.
- The farmers must be registered with the State of Maryland to accept farmers' market nutrition program vouchers.
 - First-time program vendors must receive face-to-face training.
 - All vendors must receive face-to-face training every three years.
- Farmers must display the program signs during the market hours of operation.
- Proper procedure for accepting checks is as follows:
 - The participant selects fruits, vegetables, cut herbs or honey (see eligible foods list) up to the amount listed on the vouchers (\$5 increments).
 - The farmer accepts the voucher and asks for identification.
 - After ensuring that the identification matches the check, the participant then signs the check.
 - *No change may be given, but a farmer can make up any difference in value with additional products.*
- Compliance buyers ("secret shoppers") may visit farmers to ensure compliance.