



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

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2012 AUTHORIZED FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (FMNP) FARMERS MARKET CRITERIA

A Farmers Market shall meet the following criteria in order to become an Authorized FMNP Farmers Market:

1. The market shall complete the Maryland FMNP Authorized Market Application / Agreement.
2. The market shall have at least three (3) farmers selling fruits, vegetables, cut herbs and/or honey grown or produced in Maryland or the contiguous counties of the bordering states (Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware or Pennsylvania).
3. The major activity of the market shall involve the selling of fruits and vegetables to the public.
4. The market shall have stated hours of operation for a minimum of three hours, at least one day per week, during July-October.
5. The market shall agree to abide by all FMNP rules and shall provide a market master willing to train new FMNP vendors and provide general FMNP program support.
6. The market shall require all farmers and other vendors to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local government laws and regulations.
7. Be accountable for the actions of any market employees and for the display of check acceptance signs by participating producers;
8. The market shall immediately notify the FMNP administrator if a producer violates any of the FMNP rules;
9. The market shall immediately notify the FMNP administrator if the market operation ceases or if hours of operation change;
10. The market shall provide any information that MDA requires for its annual report to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA);
11. The market shall comply with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,



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Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 to ensure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under the project; and likewise comply with all applicable state laws prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap.

12. The Market shall not:

- a. Collect sales tax on check purchases;
- b. Seek restitution from participants for checks not paid by MDA; and
- c. Issue cash change for purchases that are in an amount less than the value of the check(s).

13. If the market is in its first year of operation, the following additional criteria shall be met:

- a. Provide proof to the MDA FMNP Administrator that the new market has a market location that will be established for at least 2 years (via copy of a lease agreement, letter from the organization that is providing the location, etc.) **AND**
- b. Provide proof to the MDA FMNP Administrator that the new market has at least three (3) authorized FMNP farmers* who will be participating in the market for the duration of the season (via copy of an agreement between the market and the farmer, a commitment letter, or other form of written agreement).
- c. Additional information in support of the FMNP application which can be provided but is not mandatory includes: proof of market sponsorship (by a community organization, nonprofit, economic development agency, etc.); proof of retention of a market master (via some sort of written agreement – voluntary or paid); and any other supporting documentation that will confirm the successful establishment of the new market and its participation in the FMNP program.
- d. MDA has the discretion of approving or denying new markets for participation in the FMNP program, and will inform the market of the status of its application prior to April 30th of each year.

*authorized FMNP farmers can be either: renewing farmers or new farmers; however regardless of whether renewing or new to FMNP, the farmer shall have a current completed agreement on file with MDA and shall be in good standing with regards to meeting the training requirement.